



Mugabe snub for 'useless' Howe mission

Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, Mr Mugabe, rejected the Howe mission to Africa as "a useless exercise"...

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, last night completely rejected Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission to bring about dialogue in South Africa as "a useless exercise"...

From Jan Raath, Harare

President Botha on July 23 and 25. Another meeting, with Mr Shultz, is proposed for the end of the month for talks on Sir Geoffrey's EEC initiative to bring South Africa's white rulers and black opposition leaders to negotiate.



Sir Geoffrey in Harare before Mr Mugabe's attack.

and (then) to see what more there is to be discussed and canvassed. The prize is so great.

Sir Geoffrey said he and Mr Mugabe "respect each other's position, without accepting it". Their talks were "very friendly, open and direct".

He said he doubted the sincerity of the mission. He questioned what Sir Geoffrey "as a lone adventurer" could do when the seven-man Eminent Persons Group had failed.

"I might as well tell him (Sir Geoffrey) if he will come again to see me about his initiatives. Certainly I cannot remain party to useless discussions."

After seeing Mr Mugabe, Sir Geoffrey announced that meetings had been arranged in South Africa between him and

Zimbabwe and Mozambique, on behalf of the EEC. But he has made it clear that the mission goes beyond the Western European nations he represents as the President of the EEC Council of Ministers.

In Lusaka on Wednesday he said he could be regarded as "the spearhead of a co-ordinated international effort whose goal is the search for peaceful change". The proposed involvement of the US is seen as providing the mission with considerably more weight.

Sir Geoffrey is proposing a five-point of range of views to the black leaders.

The chief elements of this appear to be that South Africa's apartheid system has to end; that there is still room for negotiation and any chance for this must be pursued; and that comprehensive economic sanctions will not bring down apartheid.

Games an issue: Sir Geoffrey yesterday at the end of his discussions was told by Mr Mugabe that Zimbabwe was still "looking at the issue" of a possible withdrawal from the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh.

Sir Geoffrey said the withdrawal of Ghana and Nigeria was "very regrettable" and he urged both countries to reconsider their decision.

Parliament, page 4 Praise of Thatcher, page 7 Athletes' reaction, page 40

Babies report 'clears' Savage

By Thomson Practice Science Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician suspended for 15 months over allegations of professional incompetence, claimed yesterday that she had been completely vindicated by an independent inquiry.

Its findings have not been published, but copies of the first half were made public by Mrs Savage's supporters yesterday after being sent to her and the Tower Hamlets health authority in east London.

The allegations of incompetence concerned the delivery of five babies. One was still-born, another died eight days after being born, but the others are healthy.

The public inquiry this year revealed conflicts between Mrs Savage and some male colleagues. Her solicitor, Mr Brian Raymond, said: "Out of 58 separate allegations we can find only four which the inquiry panel considered valid, but even these did not include levels of incompetence. The others are held to be invalid."

Mrs Savage said she hoped to be reinstated at the London Hospital, Whitechapel, next month.

The health authority said yesterday that members were being given copies of the 150-page report. As soon as recommendations are made, the authority would hold a special meeting "very quickly", a spokesman said.

The first part of the report says: "We do not agree that the five cases, even if they should properly be taken together, reveal a consistent aberration of clinical judgement."

"We do not agree that taking the five cases together, Mrs Savage's patients were exposed to unnecessary and unjustifiable risks."

"We do not agree that, or is, not such as meets the standards reasonably required of a senior lecturer at a major teaching hospital."

"We have heard no evidence of sufficient weight that Mrs Savage's criteria for safe practice are unreasonable."

"We have heard no evidence of sufficient weight to indicate that Mrs Savage's general standards for safe obstetric practice are lower than those of anyone else at the London Hospital."

Mrs Savage, aged 51, an obstetrician for 20 years and mother of four children, has been an active advocate of natural childbirth.

After commenting on the findings yesterday, Mrs Savage joined hundreds of supporters, mainly women, including health workers, doctors, students, midwives, mothers and children, in a march in east London.

Leading article, page 17



A jubilant Mrs Savage on the march in London yesterday. (Photograph: Tim Bishop)

Investors warned Labour will buy back British Gas

By Richard Evans and Sheila Gann

The Labour Party yesterday warned potential investors in British Gas, which is to be privatized this autumn, that it will be returned to state control with shares bought back at the original price.

The sale of British Gas is expected to raise around £8 billion.

At the Newcastle-under-Lyme by-election campaign, Mr Stan Orme, shadow Energy Secretary, confirmed that a future Labour government would use a formula similar to that already proposed for regaining control of British Telecom.

Under the BT "social ownership" plan shareholders will be given the chance to sell their shares back to a Labour government at the price at which they bought them - 130p compared with the current market price of 204p - or they will be able to exchange their shares for bonds, but lose voting rights.

Mr Orme's proposal, made in advance of the

10 years jail for German spy pair

By Stewart Tandler Crime Reporter

An East German man and wife spy team described as "intelligent, talented and determined" were each jailed for 10 years yesterday at the Central Criminal Court, for working as undercover intelligence officers in Britain.

Reinhard Schultze, aged 33, and his wife Sonja, aged 36, were convicted of acts preparatory to passing information under the 1920 Official Secrets Act. Neither gave evidence during the trial.

The court had heard that miniature spy equipment was hidden in the garden shed of their west London home, including "escape kits" with false identification papers and secret Morse code messages from East Germany. The couple had admitted possessing false papers.

They were caught last August in a Special Branch raid summoned by MI5 following the defection of Hans Tiedge, head of West German counter-espionage. The police were called in to catch the Schultzes before they too fled. The thrust of the Schultzes' work remains unknown.

Sentencing them yesterday, the judge told the couple that they had been convicted on "overwhelming evidence of a very serious offence against this country and its citizens. Whether you have communicated secrets and caused actual damage to this country is not known."

"If you had not been detected it is certain you would have done what you were sent here to do and had made elaborate plans to do it." He said that although their offences were serious they would not be sentenced to the maximum of 14 years, but would still each receive a heavy sentence of 10 years for the espionage charge and three years concurrent for possessing false papers.

The judge also made a recommendation for their deportation at the end of the sentences.

GCHQ alert, page 3

Liner warned over hygiene

By Angella Johnson

Southampton port health officials say they had warned P&O that their cruise liner, Canberra, needed urgent improvements in the standard of hygiene before the ship set sail for its cruise around the Mediterranean which has left 75 people struck by a unidentified sickness.

They said the liner should not have sailed from the port on July 5 with 1,600 passengers on board after a health inspection revealed "grave concerns" over hygiene in catering and water supply.

The inspection had been carried out within hours of the last cruise which left 153 people suffering from severe cases of vomiting and diarrhoea.

No cause of the sickness has yet been found, but health officials said they had P&O there was a strong possibility the symptoms could recur if standards were not improved.

Within 24 hours the ship set off on the current cruise without making many of the improvements recommended and with three health officials on board.

A spokesman for the port health officials said: "We were powerless to do anything to prevent the ship leaving port."

A representative of the London-based Communicable Disease Centre is carrying out surveys to try to isolate the bug. Two members of the Southampton public health services are looking at hygiene standards.

Mr Ian Gibb, Canberra's captain, said the decision to sail was taken by the ship's owners. He said he has visited all the sick passengers and claimed the illness was only for a brief duration.

But the BBC's bridge and chess expert, Mr Jeremy James, who had been taken ill on the previous cruise, says he still suffers from the after-effects of fatigue and travelling after planting a few flowers in his garden.

Mr Brian McDonald, the cruise director, says he has no plans to cut short the trip. He said the vast majority of passengers did not even know of the problem.

Tomorrow

The serious spotlight



falls on Woody Allen, whose new film opens in London next week. He talks about the deadly serious business of being the wittiest film maker around

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared yesterday by four readers: Mrs R. Wilson of Sheffield; Mrs F. Lovack of Ranby, Notts; Mrs R. Hicks of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset; and Mr D. Manning of Rainham, Kent.

On This Day

Thomas Barnes, editor of The Times in 1834, was described by Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst as "the most powerful man in the country" Page 17

Bar results

The results of the Council of Legal Education's Trinity Bar examination are published today

Table with 2 columns: Subject and Marks. Includes Home News, Overseas, Arts, Bar results, Births, Deaths, Marriages, Business, Court, Crosswords, Dials, Events, Females, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Motoring, Obtaining, Parliament, Science, School Room, Sport, Theatres, TV & Radio, Universities, Weather.

US protest over union arrests

By Our Foreign Staff

The Reagan Administration has strongly protested at the wave of arrests of trade union officials in South Africa and has called on Pretoria to release people detained under the state of emergency.

The State Department said in Washington yesterday that Mr Amnon Msane, a black trade union leader, was arrested on return to South Africa on Wednesday.

In Pretoria, Mrs Thatcher was praised yesterday by the South African Broadcasting Corporation for refusing to give in to "the mob mentality" behind the international campaign for economic sanctions against South Africa.

Meanwhile, a small bomb exploded in the garden of the Stock Exchange building in Johannesburg. The Bureau for Information said it caused no damage.

In Strasbourg, the European Parliament demanded that European Community states impose immediate full economic sanctions against Pretoria over its failure to abandon apartheid policies.

In Lagos the Foreign Minister, Mr Bolaji Akinjemi, yesterday urged other Commonwealth nations to follow the lead of Nigeria and Ghana and boycott the Edinburgh games later this month.

In London Mrs Thatcher signed a Commonwealth Games friendship scroll, the day after the two African countries pulled out. The scroll, which has been on a 50,000-mile, 21-country journey, has been signed by representatives of all 58 original entrant countries, including Nigeria and Ghana.

Sanctions backed by Brittan

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Leon Brittan, the former Conservative Cabinet Minister and hitherto regarded as one of the Prime Minister's closest followers, last night called on the Government to declare its readiness to impose sanctions against South Africa.

Mr Brittan said that without the knowledge that Britain was prepared to take stronger measures against the Pretoria regime if necessary, Sir Geoffrey Howe's mission to southern Africa would be "utterly hopeless."

Mr Brittan is one of the Foreign Secretary's closest political colleagues and his declaration last night left the Prime Minister looking even more isolated within her own party in her outright opposition to sanctions.

Mr Brittan's intervention came as the Prime Minister prepared to fly today to Canada where she is expected to attempt to win over Mr Brian Mulroney, the Canadian Prime Minister, one of the seven heads of government who will attend next month's Commonwealth summit in London, to her stand on sanctions.

In the Commons, Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, asked Mrs Thatcher which she was more proud of - the praise showered on her by South South African radio, the humiliation of the Foreign Secretary in Zambia or the damage to the Commonwealth Games.

Mrs Thatcher replied: "I think the argument against general economic sanctions and punitive economic sanctions has been won."

Mitterrand raises hopes for summit

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Optimism about the chances of a second superpower summit before the end of the year, as originally envisaged, grew significantly yesterday when President Mitterrand of France ended a long series of talks in the Kremlin with the confident prediction that, despite obstacles, it would go ahead.

"My feeling is that it will take place, but the diplomacy still has a lot of work to do," the French leader told a crowded press conference after a successful visit which has gained an added dimension because it immediately followed his talks in New York with President Reagan.

A similar prediction that the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting will take place as intended before the year's end was made here yesterday by Dr David Owen, the Social Democrat leader, after more than 90 minutes of private talks with Mr Anatoly Dobrynin,

the former Soviet Ambassador in Washington who is now one of Mr Gorbachev's closest foreign policy advisers.

Dr Owen told British correspondents that he believed the Washington summit would be held in December after the US congressional elections. He added, after also talking with Mr Arthur Hartman, the influential US Ambassador, that Washington was expected to issue an interim reply to recent Soviet arms proposals "in a matter of weeks."

Leading Western diplomats who have been following the French visit, pinpointed President Reagan's recent speech at Glassboro as the main factor contributing to the new impression that the recent deadlock over the summit date can now be broken.

Mitterrand and Dr Owen emphasized separately that the Kremlin was insisting

Continued on page 20, col 8

Sterling drops sharply

By David Smith Economics Correspondent

The pound fell sharply yesterday, in response to renewed oil price weakness. But share prices continued to recover.

Sterling's slide removed remaining City hopes of an early base rate reduction. It fell 80 points to \$1.5170 against the dollar and, more significantly, more than three pennings to DM3.2968 against the mark. The sterling index declined by 0.6 points to 74.9.

The main source for the pound's weakness was lower oil prices. Brent crude oil for delivery in August was traded at \$9.70 a barrel, and there were reports of some Middle East crudes being offered in London for \$7 a barrel.

Government stocks fell by an average of 50p, but share prices were up again. The Financial Times 30-share index rose by 9.1 points to 1,340.6.

Leading article, page 17 Oil price fall, page 21

Israeli jets hit refugee camp

By Ian Murray

Jerusalem - Israel yesterday bombed a Palestinian refugee camp south of Sidon in southern Lebanon, military spokesmen said (Ian Murray writes).

The raid came scarcely 12 hours after four Palestinians and two Israeli soldiers were killed in a gun battle.

Beach battle, page 9 Leading article, page 17

MPs' holiday

The House of Commons will adjourn for the summer recess on Friday, July 25.

A Matter of Honour. The new novel by Jeffrey Archer.



The greatest chase story of our time. Hodder & Stoughton £9.95

Arrest of spy couple came after GCHQ alerted by messages

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Little escapes the monitors at GCHQ, Cheltenham, with its banks of computers and miles of tape recordings.

But the series of morse code messages from East Germany, which GCHQ began to pick up several years ago, were fairly regular and impossible to break.

Experts detected a call sign in the blocks of numerals, tapped out five figures at a time. They were clearly instructions to agents in situ but where were they?

The answer came on a summer's evening last year when Special Branch officers raided a suburban terraced house and arrested Reinhard and Sonja Schulze, who were sentenced yesterday as undercover agents.

The Schulzes, recipients of the coded radio messages, may have been part of an East German espionage operation using the most modern computerized communications to pass back messages.

The arrests came before others in the ring were found or East German plans matured.

The source which identified the Schulzes has not been disclosed but is thought to be a defector from eastern Europe or a western agent on the other side of the Berlin Wall.

Under surveillance the couple might have disclosed a great deal but an espionage panic on both sides of the Berlin Wall last August forced M15 to act quickly.

At any moment the Schulzes might destroy evidence and flee.

One suspected East German agent had been discovered last year after he disappeared abroad.

Special Branch moved in and arrested the Schulzes as the first Soviet bloc "illegals", intelligence officers living as citizens of a target country, Britain, since the Portland spying ring of 1961. Not surprisingly

the Schulzes have been compared to two key members of that spy group.

Peter and Helen Kroger were older than the Schulzes but they also lived a quiet, suburban life not far from Heathrow Airport. Apparently American, they were, in fact, thought to have been East European and at the nub of a ring passing naval secrets to the Soviet Union.

Yet no Lousdale, the master Russian spy of the Portland ring, nor a Houghton or Gee, the Civil Servants who passed on information, have been found this time.

But two-thirds of a "one-time pad", used for encoding or decoding messages, had been used up. The used pages covered 50 blocks of numerals used for code. Recent messages sent from East Germany, overheard by GCHQ, were found still in code in the Schulzes' home.

The Schulzes collected a series of maps and information, such as the flight paths for Heathrow, Stanstead, Luton, Gatwick and Manchester airports. There was also an interest in routes and a succession of Home Counties, Midlands and North-western towns which later suggested some strategic meaning to the police and M15.

But no transmitter was found with the Schulzes. Reinhard Schulze did have a desk-top computer and one senior police source has suggested that East German operations in Britain have included the use of a computerized system to send messages in very quick bursts by telephone.

M15 learnt about the Schulzes through information from West Germany. The plan may have been to allow the Schulzes time to lead their watchers to other spies until the net was full, but events in West Germany forced the Security Service's hand.

On August 19, last year, Hans Tiedge, the top West German counter-intelligence officer, defected to East Germany. In the days that followed there were arrests in West and East Germany, Switzerland and London.

Shortly after midnight on August 23, the day after Tiedge's defection became public, a team of Branch officers called together that day after an M15 briefing, raided 249 Waye Avenue, Hounslow, the terraced house rented by the Schulzes.

It was the end of a long-term undercover operation for which the East German espionage service, the HVA, has grown renowned under the leadership of Markus Wolf, who created the service.

Reinhard Schulze was given the name of Bryan Waldemar Strunze, who was roughly his age, born in Britain after the war with an English mother and a German father.

Schulze came to Britain in 1980 using a West German passport but equipped with papers which supported his identity as Strunze.

A student of interior design, he went to live in a flat in Powmill Gardens, Hounslow, West London, owned by Mr and Mrs Albert Ferris. They grew to like their tenant, even to fret at how quiet a life he led.

In spite of being a student with little money, he paid his rent well in advance in cash and installed a telephone in his flat.

Much of the time Schulze was studying. He took a course in interior and kitchen design by post, completing the course and passing with merit in 18 months, instead of the normal two years. The school was so impressed that they recommended him to a Kings-ton company looking for a designer and salesman in 1983.

He had now been joined in Britain by his wife. The couple said they had met while they were both on holiday in Ireland the year before.

Sonja Schulze used the Austrian name of Ilona Hammer and enrolled at a language school for a three-month course in advanced English in 1983.

She then went on to a translators' course before starting work in the summer of 1985. By now the couple had married.

In the summer of 1985 Schulze changed jobs after an argument about overtime pay. His new company thought he was extremely talented, with the potential to earn up to £50,000 a year.

It all came to an end at Paddington Green police station after the arrests. Schulze's "legend", false story, was flawed. He did not know that the real Bryan Strunze had a half-brother living in Britain or other simple details of the family.



Sonja and Reinhard Schulze, agents living the suburban life



Auctioneer Mr James Miller taking bids at Sotheby's yesterday for the book of Turner sketches (Photograph: Dod Miller)

Turner sketch book makes £528,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

A little Turner sketch book, bound in red morocco and full of sunsets and storms caught in impressionistic brushstrokes, was sold at Sotheby's yesterday for £528,000 to two London dealers, David Ker and William Thomson, acting in partnership.

When the hitherto unknown sketch book came in for sale, Sotheby's, hesitantly suggested a price around £100,000, but by yesterday they had increased their prediction to £200,000 or more.

It is one of only four known sketch books not included in

the Turner collection at the Tate, of which only one other remains in private hands.

The Tate had decided not to go after it, but Mr Andrew Wilton, keeper of the Turner collection, was expressing anxiety yesterday that the album might be split up and the drawings sold individually — an obvious way of turning the album into a better commercial proposition.

The other big "rediscovery" of the sale, a portfolio of water-colour views of Yorkshire ascribed to John Sell Cotman, fell flat. It was bought in at £20,000 although

Sotheby's had suggested a price around £50,000.

Sotheby's other major event of the day was the sale of A.A. Milne's *When We Were Very Young* — Christopher Robin's debut — for £132,000.

Also on offer were E.H. Shepard's original drawings, a typescript, the first edition and numerous associated publications, such as song books and notepaper which followed the enormous public success of the work when it was published in 1924.

The material was put together by Mr Carl H. Pforzheimer, the great Ameri-

can book collector, and was sent for sale by the Pforzheimer Library, which now concentrates on early literature. The purchaser was bidding over the telephone and Sotheby's would not disclose his identity.

The book trade believed this to be another purchase by Mr Fred Koch, an American millionaire collector of illustrated books and Victorian pictures.

The picture sale also set a new auction price record for a Constable water-colour when *Stawley Mill, near Colchester* sold for £61,600 (estimate £20,000-£30,000).

Head bans egg and spoon race

A head teacher is being investigated by Avon education authority because of a ban on egg and spoon and sack races at her infant school's sports day.

Mrs Christine Hardless, the head teacher of Highridge Infants School, Bishopsworth, near Bristol, said: "The children are far too young to have a competitive spirit."

"Last year there was a lot of cheating, with children putting their fingers over the eggs in the egg-and-spoon race, and carrying the skipping ropes in the skipping race."

Instead, the children took part in "sports" such as Wellington boot throwing and an obstacle course, but there were no winners and no prizes.

"They seemed to enjoy the day, although I got mixed reactions from the parents," Mrs Hardless said.

Mrs Jean Gillard, a Tory councillor and chairman of Avon County Council's education committee, said: "You can't protect children from the harsh realities of winning or losing. It's a vital part of their education and development."

Fewer air deaths

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Fatal airline accidents dropped sharply in the first half of this year after 1985's horrific record, according to statistics from *Flight International* magazine.

Only 12 fatal accidents were reported, equal to the record low figure of 1984, and compared with 21 in the first half of last year.

The number of fatalities, 340, was dramatically down on last year's 913, and nearly half occurred in a single crash when a Mexican Boeing 727 caught fire and hit high ground, killing 158.

Next worst was an Aerovias Caravelle which crashed into a hill in Guatemala last January, killing 87.

For the first time, *Flight International* statistics include deaths caused by sabotage or hijacking, involving arms or explosives. Those used to be excluded. Mr David

First six months of:	Dead*	Fatal accidents (all catgs)*
1986	340	12
1985	913	21
1984	134	12
1983	155	14
1982	538	17
1981	175	13
1980	638	20
1979	589	29
1978	637	38
1977**	1,034	21

*All of these figures are those which were known at the time of publication of each half-year report. Hand-sight shows that they need very little amendment.

**This was the year of the collision of two 747s on the runway at Tenerife.

Learnmore, the magazine's air transport editor, said, on the ground that they were "politics at its ugliest, not aviation".

But now that terrorism and unbalanced people were a permanent fact of the airlines' ground and air life they were as much a part of flight safety as cockpit checks.

Sex-shop appeal is lost

A sex-shop chain failed yesterday in the Court of Appeal to force five local councils to overturn their licensing laws.

However, Quietlynn, of east London, owners of the Private and Sven chain of sex shops, succeeded in forcing Cheltenham council to reconsider the company's application for a High Street sex shop.

Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Purchas and Lord Justice Stocker, rejected arguments that Peterborough, Tunbridge Wells, Northampton, Birmingham, and Worcester councils had not complied with the Local Government Act, 1982 under which sex shops must be licensed before they can operate.

Solicitor is fined for BT shares fraud

A solicitor made 263 applications for British Telecom shares using fictitious names when only one per person was permitted, magistrates at Bow Street, London, were told yesterday.

If Brian Taub, aged 51, of Neville Drive, East Finchley, north London, had been successful in all his applications and sold them the next day he would have made a profit of £70,800, the court was told.

Taub, a solicitor of the Supreme Court, whose offices are in Chancery Lane, denied five summonses of attempting to obtain British Telecom shares, in the first trial over alleged frauds in the flotation of November 1984.

He was found guilty and fined £1,000 on each of five summonses, with £1,000 costs.

Mr Michael Wright, for the prosecution, said that Taub had admitted to investigating officers that he habitually made applications for shares using false names.

He said that he thought the worst that could happen would be that his applications would be rejected and he was not acting dishonestly.

But on the morning of the flotation he took some applications to the bank, saw a scrutineer was present, turned and left.

"He tried to contact his wife and two sons and stop them, if he was not fully aware of what he was doing he would not have decided to behave in that way," Mr Wright said.

When the press carried the report about criminal charges, Mr Taub contacted the bank to return his applications.

In fact, no profit was made because his payments were refunded. Mr Richard du Cann, for Taub, said.

Mr Wright said that 93 of the applications got through the screening and they could have made a £26,200 profit. The 170 applications that were detected could have made a £44,600 profit.

In an interview with police Taub said: "I believe I was following an accepted practice. I would not do anything by involving myself or my family in any dishonesty."

Mr Taub has been a solicitor for 27 years. He is involved in conveyancing and commercial work. His job does not involve him in the Stock Exchange, but as an individual he has been buying new share issues for the past 12 years.

To buy new issues avoids expenses. They are not bought with a view to sell straight away," he told the court.

Taub had a facility worth £575,000 at National Westminster Bank for buying new share issues.

£30m in cannabis seizures

By Angella Johnson

Customs officials seized a record £30 million worth of cannabis in the first half of this year, it was announced yesterday. Nearly £1 million was seized as a result of information received on a drugs "hotline" set up last April.

Mr Arthur Rigby, head of the drugs group of the Customs and Excise Investigation Division, said: "The co-operation of the general public was vital in tackling the drugs problem. More than 800 calls have been received on our confidential hotline from a wide cross-section of the public."

From these, two major cannabis seizures have been made and many more drugs cases are being investigated.

The latest figures show a 145 per cent increase in herbal cannabis seizures and an 81 per cent increase in cannabis resin, compared with the same time last year.

More than 15.5 tonnes of cannabis have been seized this year by Customs officers. Last month alone 4.5 tonnes were detected and 34 people arrested in seven big operations.

Mr Rigby said: "When one considers that a container ship can unload anything from 1,700 to 3,500 freight containers in a 12-hour period and that some 133,000 ships arrive in British ports last year, one can begin to appreciate the enormous difficulties we face in seeking out any one container which may have drugs on board."

He said the public had a large role to play in helping with drugs detection. "We are particularly anxious to hear of suspicious movements of small boats and yachts near our remote coastlines."

"Devon and Cornwall are favourite spots, but we believe the Scottish coastline also poses a high risk. All people have to do is dial 100 and ask for Freephone Customs Drugs."

More patients complain

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

More people than ever before complained to the health service ombudsman last year about the treatment or care they or their relatives received from doctors and nursing staff.

The grievances ranged from the failure of hospital staff to notify relatives of patients' worsening conditions, and the reluctance of some doctors to answer complaints from individuals, to ambulance delays.

The ombudsman, Mr Anthony Barrowclough, QC, who published his annual report yesterday, received almost 1,000 complaints and found some justification in 57 per cent of those he investigated, a 10 per cent increase on the previous year. The number investigated was 25 per cent higher.

The ombudsman is critical of cases in which health authorities did not fully meet their responsibilities to inform the relatives of hospital patients whose condition deteriorated. In one case relatives did not learn for two months of the death of a man who was buried in a "pauper's grave" without regard to his religion, although they were listed as his next of kin.

They were not told he had been admitted to hospital and only discovered from a neighbour that he had died. His medical records had been lost.

In another case, a family did not discover that a terminally ill relative had died in hospital until they arrived at visiting time to see her. The woman died just before visiting time but the relatives were not alerted that her condition was earlier in the day.

A third case involved relatives finding a man unconscious in his hospital bed three days after they last visited him, when they did not think he was seriously ill.

"The ward staff's failure to notify the relatives of the serious deterioration in the father's condition denied them the opportunity to see him conscious before he died in the early hours of the morning after their second visit," the ombudsman reports.

In a sequel to that case, the ombudsman investigated a complaint from the man's daughter that the consultant physician failed to answer requests for information about the changes in her father's condition.

For the next six months the consultant ignored her correspondence, his secretary fobbed off the woman by telling her he was on holiday or was ill, and the consultant told the ombudsman he did not regard himself as responsible for the patient's care.

"I found his failure to take any action at all inexcusable," Mr Barrowclough comments. "I found his attitude to a temperately expressed request for information most discourteous."

Another woman complained about the treatment she received from a hospital dental surgeon. The hospital administrator asked the surgeon to comment but he did not respond, despite reminders, until five months later.

The ombudsman says the delay was "wholly unacceptable" and describes the surgeon as "at best inept and at worst perverse in the way he dealt with the complaint."

The same surgeon was the subject of two similar complaints, in which he took more than four months to respond to the hospital administrator's requests for comments. When he did eventually respond, it was with a one-sentence "no comment" note.

The ambulance service is criticized in some cases for causing delay, hardship and concern to patients or their families. The supervision of suicidal patients is criticized in four cases, three of which had tragic endings.

Third Report of the Health Service Commissioner for Session 1985-1986 (Stationery Office, £5.20).

Buy British appeal

A "buy British" drive by the National Health Service is needed if the medical equipment industry is not to surrender to foreign competition.

"Health authorities should be encouraged to invest in new equipment, where this can be shown to offer increased efficiency," it adds.

The NHS is more conservative towards new medical technologies than other countries, the report says. This reduces its effectiveness in fostering export potential. "In the NHS, net annual expenditure tends to be the driving financial motivation, rather than profit, overall economic impact, or even efficiency."

Funding of general practice in Britain inhibits the growth of the trend apparent elsewhere for GPs to undertake increasingly sophisticated care, at lower cost than hospitals can.

Medical Equipment (Stationery Office, £5.20).

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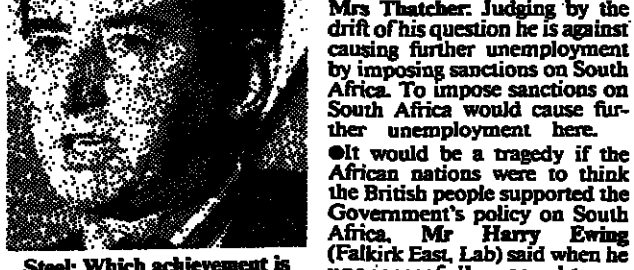
NATIONAL SAVINGS

PM declares argument against economic and punitive sanctions won

SOUTH AFRICA

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, again called during Commons question time for an end to violence in South Africa and a search for a peaceful solution. She said she hoped the whole House would wish Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, well in his great endeavour.

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, looking back on the whirlwind of interviews the Prime Minister has given over the last 48 hours, of which result is the most proud: the peace of praise showered on her by Pretoria State Radio, the humiliation of the Foreign Secretary in Zambia, or the damage to the Commonwealth Games which she has put out of work?



Steel, which achievement is she most proud of?

He added that she thought the argument against punitive economic sanctions had been won. Sir John Biggs-Davison (Epping Forest, C) said that the Government would not countenance force against South Africa.

The logic (he went on) of the Leader of the Opposition's advocacy of mandatory United Nations sanctions, according to Mr Denis Healey, is that we must be prepared for a naval action against South Africa. That was the ex-minister who wanted to arm the South African navy.

Mrs Thatcher: This Government is not talking about the use of force in connection with apartheid. Rather we are calling for a suspension of violence on all sides and seeking a peaceful solution. Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C): Perhaps the House is losing sight of the positive steps the Government is taking to help blacks in South Africa and those living in the frontline states. Would she take this opportunity to remind us?

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab): Those of us who are very much opposed to her policy on South Africa hope nonetheless that the Commonwealth leaders when they meet will bear in mind that the Prime Minister does not represent the majority of British opinion and moreover the days of her wretched administration are coming to an end.

Mrs Thatcher: I am afraid he is guilty of wishful thinking on the latter point. The overwhelming majority of British people reject the use of force, wish to have a suspension of violence, wish to have a peaceful solution and support the Foreign Secretary in his mission. Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab): The Prime Minister can get into a fit about sanctions against South Africa, but has she considered how many people she has put out of work?

Further easing of lamb restrictions

CHERNOBYL

The Government announced the lifting of the three week-old restrictions on movements of sheep in further areas of Cumbria and Wales, during questions in the Commons.

Mr Michael Jopling, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, also told MPs that the National Farmers' Union, in talks with the Government about compensation, had agreed that it was too early to assess the impact of the restrictions caused by the international air pollution created by the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion in the Soviet Union.

How badly individual farmers had been affected would depend upon their own marketing patterns and how long the restrictions lasted. Details about this limited lifting of restrictions were being published. But he refused to be drawn by demands for details of the Government's criteria for eventually paying compensation.

However, he assured Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Crom-

arty and Skye, SDP) that the offer he announced when the restrictions were announced still stood: The Government was prepared to discuss cases of compensation for severe loss to specific farmers in particular circumstances.

Mr Kennedy had pointed out that his constituency was not in either of the areas being relieved. On top of that difficulty, there were the continuing problems caused by last year's bad weather, which had led to a 75 per cent drop in farm income and an increase in Scottish farmers' indebtedness.

The survival of the rural economy in Scotland depended on the wellbeing of the farming industry. Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab) claimed that the scare in Wales was so great that one butcher had to use a geese counter on lamb meat in his shop. (Conservative protest).

before making irresponsible statements. (Conservative cheers). He reiterated that NFU leaders in England and Wales recognized that until more data was available, it was not possible to look at the compensation question in detail.



Jopling: Too soon to agree on compensation

important that an early decision should be made, as soon as the information did come to hand. Mrs Elaine Kellett-Bowman (Lancaster, C) wanted Mr Jopling to go further in deplor-

ing scaremongering, which could lead people to stop buying lamb meat that was perfectly safe. Mr Jopling was glad that Mrs Kellett-Bowman had drawn attention to the perfect safety of consuming sheepmeat at present.

The British housewife had demonstrated this clearly. The market price last week, and that being forecast this week, was rather higher than it had been in the corresponding weeks last year. (Conservative cheers).

Mr Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield, C) said that in addition to sheep farmers, haulage contractors and auction markets had suffered a fairly dramatic drop in their income. Would their position also be considered? Would Mr Jopling confirm that there was no danger what-so-ever of anyone in eating sheep meat at all?

Mr Jopling said that he repeated that confirmation gladly. The undertaking he had given about compensation was for specific farmers. Abattoirs and markets were to draw sheep from outside the areas to which the restrictions applied, if they wished. Dr Mark Hughes (City of

Durham, Lab) said he was deeply disturbed by those last remarks. In north Wales, it was not possible to get the sheep from elsewhere. Such operators were as eligible for compensation as anyone else.

Mr Jopling said he could only repeat the truth: the markets and abattoirs were free, even if they were within the restricted areas, to draw their livestock and sheep meat from outside areas. Mr John Home Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on agricultural matters, welcomed the lifting of the movements ban in certain areas.

Mr Jopling had appeared to be back-peddling on his commitment about compensation in remarks he had made at the Great Yorkshire Show. However, Mr Home Robertson was trying to put words into his mouth. (Opposition shout of "Someone ought to.")

What I have done today (he said) is to repeat precisely the undertakings I gave when the restrictions were introduced. Maybe some newspapers misreported what I said at the Great Yorkshire Show.

Rate grants to be announced soon

RECESS DATE

The House of Commons will rise for its summer recess on Friday, July 25, Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the House, said during business questions. He assured the House that the Government planned to make an announcement on the rate support grant for the component parts of Great Britain before the recess.

He also agreed to draw the attention of Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern

Ireland, to remarks made by MPs about the duty of members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary towards forthcoming marches in the province. Sir Eileen Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C) raised the issue because, he said, the marching season in Northern Ireland came while the House was in recess. He has seen a remark by one MP (he said) urging the RUC to do less than their duty in relation to marches in Portadown next weekend, and a remark by another MP to the Police Federation of Northern Ireland that they should actively fight against the Anglo-Irish Agreement?

Effect of sugar in diet

LABELLING

The need for adequate food labelling in shops was expressed by MPs during Commons question time exchanges. Mr Michael Meadowcroft (Leeds West, Lab) said some MPs were worried that the attitude of food labelling did not go far enough. Instructions should be issued to ensure that labelling included a warning that some constituents were possibly toxic. Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said she had abided by a strict consultation pattern required in legislation. Government proposals were issued on February 13. Some 700 interested parties had been contacted and their comments were awaited.

Mr Simon Coombs (Swindon, C) asked Mrs Fenner how consumers could make the right choice in the absence of mandatory labelling for sugar. Mrs Fenner told him that sugars already had to be indicated in ingredient listings. The Committee on Medical Aspects of Food was to set up a panel to examine the effect of sugars in the diet and the Government would consider the implications of any such report.

Mr Michael McNair-Wilson (Newbury, C) asked if Mrs Fenner was satisfied with the labelling on so-called health foods. Were the descriptions on these labels substantiated by any scientific research? Had not the time come for approved definitions in which the Ministry would have some say? Mrs Fenner said these foods did have to comply with labelling requirements. For example, foods purporting to aid slimming had to be labelled very carefully. But she would consider any instances which worried Mr McNair-Wilson. Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP) said some fast food merchants had taken umbrage at the slight advances already made. Carbons containing food should have an accurate note of the contents. Mrs Fenner said regulations were introduced in 1984 and came fully into operation on July 1.

Advice sought on library censorship

WAPPING DISPUTE

The Minister for the Arts, Mr Richard Luce, is taking legal advice on whether action can be taken against local authorities which have withdrawn newspapers published by News International from public libraries. Lord Belstead, Deputy Leader of the House of Lords, stated he was being questioned by Lord Harris of Greenwich (SDP) about the action the Government was taking under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964 against the authorities. Lord Belstead said the Minister for the Arts had used the powers under the Act to write to the 20 library authorities about which he had received complaints. He had asked them whether they had withdrawn News International newspapers and, if so, how they reconciled their action with their duties under the Act.

FINANCE

MPs on both sides unsuccessfully urged postponement of a debate on a £930 million supplementary estimate for the European Community budget because at that time the European Parliament had not reached a decision upon it. They argued unsuccessfully that it was not possible for them to discuss the transfer of British taxpayers' money to another body whose budget did not exist. Mr Peter Shore, chief Opposition spokesman on House of Commons affairs, said it was a scandal that MPs should be asked to approve an estimate of £930 million in relation to a budget which had not yet been formally agreed. Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Opposition, said he would have thought that any responsible Minister would have ensured that the time of the debate was such as to make it one of substance instead of speculation.

Mr Edward Taylor (Southend East, C) said the motion was being put forward on the basis of a cash flow shortage. He did not know whether there still would be a cash flow shortage after the European Assembly came to its decision. The points of order having been turned down, the debate eventually began with Mr Terence Higgins (Worthing, C), a former Treasury minister and now chairman of the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, moving his amendment to the Government motion seeking a supplementary sum of up to £930 million for the budget of the European Communities. The amendment would be like so many of the old ones — more spending on agriculture and automatically cutting up more and more to produce less and less for eating and more and more for storing and destroying.

There were strong indications that they were very close to the 1.4 per cent VAT ceiling which was agreed only a short time ago. Mr George Robertson, Opposition spokesman on EEC Affairs, said budget discipline was worthless. The assurance of the late government's agreement on the supplementary budget were worth no more than piffle. No doubt the latest budget

overwhelming case for supporting the amendment. He said it was very unfortunate that the Government and in particular the Prime Minister, who took such a clear and forthright attitude on other issues, were failing to do so where control of public expenditure in relation to the EEC was concerned. We are right (he went on) to be members of the Community, but on this occasion I feel grave disquiet at the way in which it is going, particularly over its financial affairs.

FINANCE

The purpose of the amendment was simply to prevent the payment in advance, not the eventual payment, of the sums involved. He hoped the Government would come to the House at the earliest moment when any hard information was available to explain what was going on in Europe with British taxpayers' money. There were strong indications that they were very close to the 1.4 per cent VAT ceiling which was agreed only a short time ago.

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would be like so many of the old ones — more spending on agriculture and automatically cutting up more and more to produce less and less for eating and more and more for storing and destroying.

There was sanctimonious criticism by the backbench but given the political situation, Down would go research spending, down would go spending on energy and down would go overseas aid, and presumably they were going to leave the latter to Bob Geldof.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on policing the metropolis. Lords (11): Financial Services Bill, second reading.

Next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is the House of Commons debate on agriculture and the House of Lords debate on the Bill on high technology. Monday: Debate on an Opposition Motion: Finance Bill, completion of remaining stages. Tuesday: House of Commons debate on the House of Lords debate on the Bill on high technology. Wednesday: Debate on an Opposition Motion: Finance Bill, completion of remaining stages. Thursday: House of Commons debate on the House of Lords debate on the Bill on high technology. Friday: Building Societies Bill, report.

Plea for extension of legal aid to cover dispute arbitration

AGRICULTURE

About 60 per cent of Britain's food supply was home produced in 1985, compared with 50 per cent in 1973 when the United Kingdom joined the Common Market. That represented a considerable achievement for the agriculture industry, Mrs Peggy Fenner, Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said during question time in the Commons. She added that self-sufficiency in indigenous foods — those which could be produced commercially in the United Kingdom — had increased from 62 per cent in 1973 to 80 per cent in 1985. Mr David Knox (Staffordshire Moorlands, C) said that if the figures were to be maintained, the Government must continue to give strong support to British agriculture, especially the livestock sector. Mrs Fenner said the figures showed that the Government was supporting the farming community. Mr Dennis Casavan (Falkirk West, Lab) said it was about time the Government took action against South African food. Sanctions of that nature would help home food producers as well as helping to end the evil regime in South Africa.

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, is being urged by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators to extend legal aid so that it covers the settling of disputes by arbitration.

The institute says that arbitration, whereby disputes can be resolved more quickly, cheaply and simply than by the conventional courtroom method, could substantially ease the pressure on the courts. At the moment many litigants are forced to go to court to resolve disputes because that is the only way they will qualify for legal aid. There are an estimated 10,000 arbitrations in London a year. They are mostly confined to building, shipping and commodity disputes. Yesterday Mr John Sims, spokesman for the institute, said that extending legal aid to arbitration would open up a faster and more flexible way to settle disputes to many more people. It would also siphon off cases from the overloaded court system.

Science report

A creature in a class of its own

By Dorothy Bonn



Three zoologists exploring the sea off the coast of New Zealand have found a new species of echinoderm, the large group of animals which includes starfish and sea urchins. So different is it from known forms that the new creature has been given a class of its own, *Concentricycoloides*.

Nine specimens of the echinoderm, measuring between 2mm and 8mm across, emerged from a piece of wood dredged up from a depth of more than 1,000 metres. The animals had a disc-shaped body bearing a fringe of spines resembling the petals of a daisy. They were given the name *Xyloplax medusiformis*. The *xyloplax* lacks the starfish's five arms, but its almost circular body shows the rudiments of a pentagonal structure. Its dorsal surface is covered with small plates, plus five larger ones, symmetrically arranged. It can move by its tube feet, which are given rigidity by pressure from the animal's hydrostatic skeleton, the water vascular system. This system consists of two concentric canals attached to each other at five equally spaced points. But the zoologists, Francis Rowe, Alan Baker and Helen Clark, of the National Museum of New Zealand who made the discovery, believe that the tiny creature is more often carried, parachute fashion, by water currents. Its most unusual feature is that it has no mouth or gut. Its under-surface is covered by a thin membrane, which is probably absorptive. Source: *Nature*, June 26, pp.862.

Newcastle by-election

Steel challenged on CND member

By Sheila Gunn, Political Staff

Mr John Butcher, a junior trade minister, accused the Alliance parties yesterday of sabotaging their own candidate's campaign in the Newcastle-under-Lyme by-election because of his membership of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. The election of Mr Alan Thomas, while a fervent unilateralist and anti-Nato, would be an embarrassment to the Alliance, he said. "I wonder if in typical Liberal fashion, the party is not giving this candidate their full support. They have sent generals and key administrators but they are not sending the troops. I think it is a pretty gutsy way of sabotaging their candidate. "It is a matter for Mr David Steel's reputation whether he is going to tolerate this kind of anarchy where local candidates can do what they like locally and not be disciplined nationally." With the election next Thursday, and Mrs Llin Golding, the right-wing Labour candidate looking increasingly confident of taking over her husband's seat, it was a day filled with smears and innuendos. The Liberals challenged Mrs Golding to disclose who funded a secret poll, conducted by MORI, to test local reactions to her selection after her husband's appointment as the £33,000-a-year general secretary of the National Communications Union. They said the questions asked in the poll included:

Britain's bright spark

Complicated wiring plans pose no problems for Jayne Pole, who was named yesterday as Britain's top electrical apprentice. Jayne, aged 18, from Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, faced stiff competition from 1,500 male and 12 female counterparts to become the first girl to win the award since it began 12 years ago. Sir Alwyn Williams, principal of Glasgow University, told graduates yesterday that Britain's industrial survival was a stake unless more women went into engineering. (Photograph: Leslie Lee).

Army's women

Women should be ordered to the Church of England, General Eva Burrows, the new world leader of the Salvation Army, said in London yesterday. General Burrows, who is only the second woman to hold the post of world leader since the Church was founded in 1875, said she was pleased to be a woman but that she was not a feminist. She said she was not a feminist because she was a woman. She said she was not a feminist because she was a woman. She said she was not a feminist because she was a woman.

£1,400m for Scots tourism

By a Staff Reporter

Tourism earned Scotland more than £1,400 million last year, the wettest and coldest year this century, the Scottish Tourist Board said yesterday. But the figure showed no increase on the year before and highlighted the danger of depending too much on good weather, the board said in its annual report for 1985, published yesterday. British residents made more than 12 million trips to Scotland, spending £1,115 million. Overseas visitors spent £324 million. "The trading hopes for 1986 have been dampened by concerns about international terrorism and the knock-on effect of a wet 1985," Mr Alan

Deveraux, the chairman of the board, said.

"Nevertheless, the medium-term prospects for Scottish tourism have never been brighter." Scotland had still to benefit from cheaper oil, bringing lower air fares, better quality holidays, and more promotion to woo first-time British visitors.

56m loss project been avoided... Pledge on subliminal TV fight... Mr Francis Bennion, chairman of the Mr McWhirter, told the Law Lords yesterday that the petition had been put in the name of a trustee of the High Court. The Lord Keith said that although the Law Lords had a power to dispense with the strict time limits laid down in the petition, they would not do so.

£56m loss on Lear jet project should have been avoided, MPs say

By Richard Evans, Political Correspondent

The loss of £56 million of taxpayers' money in an experimental aircraft project which failed could, and should have, been avoided, the Commons Public Accounts Committee said yesterday.

The MPs said that the caution expressed by the Ministry of Defence, together with other early-warning signals ought to have persuaded the department not to assist the project.

After the decision had been taken by ministers in February 1980 to back the scheme, officials did not carry out an adequate financial appraisal of the project.

The committee blames the quality of management throughout the six-year saga as a significant cause of the project's failure.

"It is too early to know if any of the £56 million of public money invested in this project will be recovered."

The department was approached in October 1978 by the Lear Avia Corporation, based in Nevada, to see if it would provide taxpayers' money towards the continuing development in the United States, and eventual manufacture in Northern Ireland, of the Lear Fan 2100, an eight-passenger turbo-prop jet.

In early 1980 ministers agreed to a package of grants and loans, not exceeding £16.25 million, based on a plan which envisaged the aircraft gaining its airworthiness certificate by September 1982, and up to 1,250 jobs being created in Northern Ireland.

But within months the department was agreeing to guarantee bank borrowing up to \$15 million (£10 million) because of a shortage of private investment.

The target date for the jet gaining its airworthiness certificate slipped back repeatedly, and the demands for extra cash continued.

By August 1982 the department had committed £34.12 million to the project.

Although a Saudi Arabian group agreed to invest up to \$60 million (£40 million) in the jet project, the troubles continued, with technical difficulties and test failures.

The Lear Fan project was finally wound up in May 1985, by which time £55.67 million of taxpayers' money had been invested.

The principal funding of £2.5 million is provided by the Arts Council, while private sponsorship amounts to about £50,000.

Mr Nicholas Payne, the general administrator of Opera North, rejected the allegations as ludicrous: "We have to work to a very tight budget, as we receive less funding than other major opera companies."

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Audit of opera accounts ordered

By Gavin Bell Arts Correspondent

A special report into the accounts of Opera North is being prepared, after allegations concerning the financial management of the subsidized company.

The audit was ordered by Sir Gordon Linacre, the company chairman, and Mr Tom McDonald, chairman of its finance committee, after leading members of Leeds City Council received a number of anonymous telephone calls.

Mr McDonald told *The Times* that because of the non-specific nature of the allegations a wide-ranging investigation was taking place.

"I was surprised by the allegations and have no reason to believe they will be substantiated. However, I must reserve judgement until the outcome of the audit is known."

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A collection of traditional river craft and artefacts, including punts, canoes, skiffs, whiffs, steam launches and decorated oars from Balliol College, Oxford University, are to be sold by Phillips, the auctioneers, at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, tomorrow. (Photographs: Bill Warhurst).

'Get-tough' move on copyright music

A new get-tough policy by the Performing Right Society could land many small business people in the High Court.

Its enforcement was an important topic at the society's annual meeting in London yesterday.

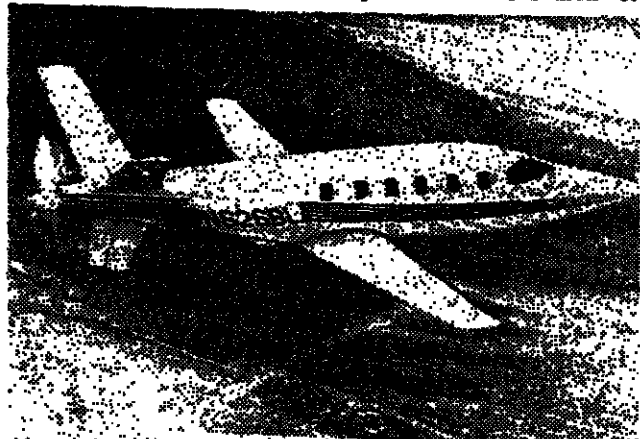
Proprietors from corner shops to top hotels, will have to pay a 50 per cent penalty surcharge on their first year's licence fee if they are caught playing music without a licence.

The society brings at least one High Court action a week against licence evaders.

"From July 1 we are adopting a get-tough policy. We have around 40 inspectors touring the country to ensure that music is not played publicly without a licence," a society spokesman said.

"If a proprietor of premises where music is played refuses to take out a licence then, whether he has a corner shop or a dance hall, he will be taken to the High Court."

"More than 50 High Court orders were issued last year banning the playing of copyrighted music until the proprietors took out licences."



The Lear Fan jet, product of a failed experimental project which used £56million of taxpayers' money.

Pledge on subliminal TV fight

Mr Norris McWhirter pledged yesterday to continue his battle against the transmission of subliminal images on television, after his bid to bring a private prosecution against the Independent Broadcasting Authority failed in the House of Lords.

A committee of Law Lords, headed by Lord Keith of Kinkel, refused to allow Mr McWhirter to argue his case in the House of Lords because his petition for leave to appeal was one day late.

Mr McWhirter, co-founder of *The Guinness Book of Records*, had alleged that a "grotesque and ridiculing" image of his face superimposed above the body of a naked woman, had been flashed on screen during the satirical *Spitting Image* programme.

Last January, the High Court quashed his private summons issued by Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, south-west London, and banned all further proceedings on the ground that the summons disclosed no offence known in law.

Mr Francis Bennion, counsel for Mr McWhirter, told the Law Lords yesterday that the petition had been out of time because of a default by officers of the High Court.

But Lord Keith said that although the Law Lords had a "great deal of sympathy", they had no power to dispense with the strict time limits laid down for prosecution appeals.

Mr McWhirter said afterwards: "This is not the end of the road - there will be other cases. I know of six others."

"The rule of law requires that people should not be subjected to transmissions which only register in their sub-conscious."

Easing of sheep restraints

The Commons were told at Question Time yesterday that more areas in Cumbria and Wales had been cleared from the restrictions on movement and slaughter of sheep, imposed in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. Announcing a lifting of the ban on specified areas, Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, said that no decision could be made yet on the size of compensation to farmers who have suffered because of the restrictions.

Gay bookshop trial dropped

Charges relating to the importation of indecent and obscene material against seven men and two women from Gay's The Word bookshop, Bloomsbury, central London, were withdrawn at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The European Court of Justice ruled last March, after the nine had been committed for trial, that it was unlawful to ban imports of items that could be manufactured and traded at home.

Driver faces murder charge

A driver aged 18 in the Royal Corps of Transport was charged yesterday with the murder of Miss Julia Harrison, aged 16, an Army captain's daughter, at Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire.

John James Davidson Hardie, of Lanark, Strathclyde, was remanded in custody by magistrates at Richmond until Tuesday. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

'Army' head backs women priests

Women should be ordained into the Church of England, General Eva Burrows, the new world leader of The Salvation Army, said in London yesterday.

General Burrows, who is only the second woman to hold the post of world leader, criticized the General Synod's debate over women priests in the Church of England for getting "bogged down" on an issue that had grown out of all perspective.

"It is very sad the Church has become so intensely concerned about such an issue. I believe women should have the opportunity to minister in the Church," she said.

Speaking about her role directing the Salvation Army's operations in 80 countries, General Burrows, aged 56, said that being a woman had never prevented her from rising through the ranks, after more than 30 years experience in the Third World, Australia, Britain and Ireland.

"I lead as a woman. You can be a woman leader and a feminine leader and be just as strong."

One of her main tasks will be to consolidate the Salvation Army as an "international family".

Before leaving Melbourne, where she was Territorial Commander for the Australia

Southern Territory for the past three years. General Burrows met Mr Bob Hawke, Australian Prime Minister, to work out a national scheme to help young unemployed people.

The Salvation Army raised \$15 million in Australia last year to help the country's needy.

General Burrows, who was born in Australia and is one of nine children, spent much of her childhood helping her parents, who were both Salvation Army officers, in their work among the poor of Fortitude Valley, Brisbane.

After studying at Queensland University where she gained a Bachelor of Arts degree, she attended the William Booth Memorial Training College in London and was commissioned as a Salvation Army officer in 1951.

She later gained her Master of Education degree at Sydney University, and became the first woman vice-principal of The Salvation Army's Educational Institute at Howard, Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

In 1979 General Burrows became the first woman to head The Salvation Army in Scotland, and in May this year the High Council elected her General and world leader, succeeding General Jari Wahlstrom.

Would you give up a secure office job to walk the streets?

Police service isn't the first choice of career for everyone. Many of our officers have abandoned all sorts of apparently promising professions to join the Met.

If you were to ask them "why?", they'd all give you different reasons. However, there is one thing on which they all seem to agree. Being a PC in London scores very highly indeed when it comes to job satisfaction, whatever your definition of the term may be.

"I WANTED A CAREER: NOT A DEAD END!"

If you are ambitious, there is plenty of opportunity. All senior police officers in the land started their careers as constables on the beat. And like them, you'll be encouraged to go as far as your ability or inclination will take you.

You'll find interest and challenge at all levels in the Metropolitan Police. Plus an enormous variety of different specialist departments. Drugs squad, criminal intelligence, diplomatic protection, communications, training, traffic and crime prevention: the list goes on and on.

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"I JUST WASN'T LEARNING ANYTHING."

Of course, we'll give you a very thorough training. And it can be pretty tough at times.

For a start, you'll get 20 weeks at the Peel Centre in Hendon. Then a further 19 months on probation attached to a London police station. And training will continue throughout your career.

As a police officer, you never stop learning. The more experienced you are, the better you do the job.

"DO I FIT THE BILL?"

Academically, we're looking for around five good 'O' levels. But if you've got 'A' levels or a degree, so much the better.

You can't be over-qualified for this job. Although your personal qualities are as important as your qualifications.

You must be at least 5'8" (172cms) tall for a man, 5'4" (162cms) tall for a woman, physically fit and mentally agile. You'll need more than your fair share of common sense and we find that on occasion, a sense of humour is a definite advantage.

Oh, and don't worry if we're not your first career. As a professional police officer, you never know when your previous experience is going to come in handy.

For further information, phone (01) 725 4575. Or write to the Appointments Officer, Careers Information Centre, Dept. MD615, New Scotland Yard, London SW1H 0BG.

DETECTIVE CONSTABLE CHAMBERS 'A' levels. Spent one year as a management trainee with one of the clearing banks before joining the Met.

SERGEANT HEATON BSc Leeds University. Did research work for an international oil company.

POLICE CONSTABLE LOGAN BSc in Applied Biology. Worked on research of medical products and for four years in a leading London hospital.

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And now 90 Day Xtra gives you the chance to make even more of your money. You'll earn an immediate 8.00% net equal to a gross equivalent of 11.27%.†

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French suspect terror link between Munich and Paris bomb attacks

From Diana Geddes, Paris

French police believe there could be a connection between a Paris attack and the almost simultaneous bomb attack in Munich, in which a West German industrialist and his driver were killed.

Two more policemen struggled for life yesterday after the attack on Wednesday against the police anti-gang unit's headquarters in Paris in which a police inspector was killed.

M. Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, yesterday said the French Government was determined to take up the unprecedented terrorist challenge thrown down by the bomb attack.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bombing in which 18 people were injured, three of them seriously.

Responsibility for the Munich attack has been claimed

Bonn hunt for nine suspects

From Frank Johnson, Bonn

West German police yesterday named nine suspects — four women and five men — in the search for the terrorists who murdered the Siemens scientific director and his driver in Munich.

The police said they had reason to believe that the nine had all been in southern Germany recently. The murders took place in a suburb of Munich in Bavaria, which is in the south.

The federal police bureau at Wiesbaden named the nine suspects as: Wolfgang Werner Grams, aged 33, Eva Sybille Haule-Frimpong, 32, Birgit Elisabeth Hogefeld, 30, Andrea Martina Klump, 29, Barbara Meyer, 30, Horst Ludwig Meyer, 30, Christoph Edeard Seidler, 28, Thomas Simon, 33, and Siegfried Sternebeck, 37.

The Meyers are a married couple and are suspects in the

Light jail terms for hijackers of liner

Genoa (Reuters) — An Italian court yesterday sentenced three Palestinians, including the guerrilla leader, Abu Abbas, to life in jail for the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise liner last year.

Neither Abbas, who was freed by Italian authorities after the hijacking, nor two of his close associates who were also given life sentences, are in custody. The court sentenced three captured hijackers to jail terms ranging from 15 to 30 years. The heaviest of these sentences went to the alleged ringleader, Magied al-Molqi, aged 23.

The court acquitted four of the accused and handed down five other sentences ranging from six months to 7½ years.

Three close associates of Abu Abbas — Abdul Rahim Kaled, Ahmed Yusuf and Muhammad Ben Kadra — received relatively light sentences ranging from six months to 7½ years.

The public prosecutor at the 22-day trial had requested a life sentence for Kaled, who boarded the Achille Lauro with the hijackers in Genoa but disembarked at Alexandria shortly before the liner was taken over.

A crippled Jewish-American passenger, Leon Klinghoffer, was killed during the hijack.

Signor Lino Monteverde, the court president, acquitted three men, including another close associate of Abu Abbas, on the ground that the indictment drawn up by the public prosecutor did not properly identify them. A Greek citizen, Fmoros Petros, said to have sheltered the hijackers at his home in Athens, was acquitted for lack of evidence.

An Egyptian plane carrying Abu Abbas and the hijackers from Egypt to Tunisia after they surrendered was forced down in Sicily by US fighter planes. But Italy freed Abbas soon afterwards, on the ground that there was no evidence against him, causing a serious rift with Washington.

A fourth hijacker was not at this trial because he was a minor at the time of the incident and he will be tried separately by a juvenile court.

Six of the defendants, the



Achille Lauro hijack defendants behind bars at the end of their trial in Genoa yesterday (clockwise from left): Magied al-Molqi, Ibrahim Abdelatif, Said Gandura and Abbas Issa.

three given life sentences and the three hijackers, were found equally responsible for the death of Mr Klinghoffer, who was shot in his wheelchair and his body thrown over the side of the liner.

They were found guilty of "carrying out a kidnap with terrorist intent, leading to the death of a hostage".

Klinghoffers outraged

New York (Reuters) — The daughters of Mr Leon Klinghoffer, the sole victim of the Achille Lauro hijacking, said yesterday they were outraged at the sentences.

His daughters, Lisa and Isa, said they were expecting

Kampala sacks two after attack

Kampala (Reuters) — Uganda's ruling National Resistance Movement has dismissed its chief political commissar, Commander Gyagenda Kibirango, after an army attack on an NRM political school.

Mr Roland Kakooza, the commander of the school in Najemba forest 14 miles north-west of Kampala, has been arrested.

Seven people were killed at the Najemba forest ideological school when troops stormed it, thinking it was a camp for outlaws.

President Museveni apologized to villagers near the school for the incident and offered his condolences to the victims' families.

Ocean search for Scots girl

New York (Reuters) — US Coast Guard and navy planes were scouring the Atlantic off Newfoundland yesterday for Anne Katherine Miller, a Scottish woman sailor, after her yacht was found, apparently abandoned, by a tanker.

She set sail from Bermuda on June 26 in her 30 ft single-masted sloop Ruppert on a solo transatlantic crossing to the west coast of Scotland.

Son jailed for mercy killing

Marine, California (AP) — Edward Thomas Baker, aged 37, who forced a nurse at gunpoint to disconnect his cancer-stricken father's life-support machinery, has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

The prosecution agreed to a reduced sentence of not more than one year in county jail and five years' probation.

Gulls danger

Paris (Reuters) — An Airbus of the French domestic airline Air Inter, bound for Paris with nearly 200 passengers on board, returned to Nice airport only minutes after take-off yesterday when it hit a flock of seagulls over the Mediterranean.

Mob revenge

Rio de Janeiro (Reuters) — A mob of about 250, mainly taxi drivers avenging the murder of a colleague, set fire to a police station in the Amazon region of Brazil, then beat to death a murder suspect and seriously injured another.

Religious riot

Delhi (Reuters) — Sixteen people were killed and 100 injured in Muslim-Hindu riots after a Hindu march in Ahmedabad.

One year on

Greenpeace groups blockaded the French Embassy in London and the French consulate in Hamburg to mark the first anniversary of the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior by French saboteurs in Auckland harbour.

Grave move

Boxtel, Netherlands (AP) — The White Fathers, a Roman Catholic missionary order, is planning to take along both past and present members when it moves soon from St Charles Monastery here to a new building — including the ones in the monastery graveyard.

Longer life

Tokyo (Reuters) — Japanese life expectancy at birth went up last year to 80.46 years for women and 74.84 for men.

Lovers' leap

Peking (Reuters) — China's legal authorities have warned couples living together outside marriage that they are lacking in morality and breaking the law.

Sell-out

Hong Kong (AFP) — The first Chinese-language edition of Playboy magazine appeared on newsstands here on Wednesday and all 50,000 copies were sold in one day.

Shevardnadze visit vital to summit

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Next week's long-delayed visit to London by Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, is seen here as formal recognition by the Kremlin that Anglo-Soviet relations have returned to normal after last September's bitter round of tit-for-tat expulsions of 31 nationals from either capital.

The British invitation was originally extended in 1984 to Mr Shevardnadze's veteran predecessor, Mr Andrei Gromyko, but was twice postponed last year due to different sets of expulsions of diplomats, journalists and businessmen. About 75 per cent of those removed from Moscow and London have now been replaced.

Western diplomatic sources said last night that the visit had gained international significance because it coincided with efforts to set up the second Reagan-Gorbachov summit. They said Britain may be used to put pressure on Washington regarding questions of arms control, seen as central to setting a summit date.

The sources said the visit, which will include talks with Mrs Thatcher, was also evidence that the Kremlin was now taking Western Europe more seriously. "This is partly for the purpose of driving a wedge between it and America, and partly because of confusion here over current American intentions."

They added that Britain's role as an intermediary on the summit issue could be enhanced because no obvious "back channel" existed between Moscow and Washington. Another reason why it may become a broker is a result of the four-day visit from Sunday is because Mrs Thatcher has a close rapport with President Reagan.

Court clears the way for Barbie trial

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A ruling by the Paris Appeal Court on the definition of a "crime against humanity" has opened the way for the trial of Klaus Barbie, the former Nazi SS leader in Lyons, for his part in the deportation of French Resistance fighters and Jews.

It had previously been thought that deportation was not a crime against humanity but a war crime.

However, the Appeal Court ruled that crimes against humanity are "inhuman acts of persecution, carried out systematically in the name of a state practising a policy of ideological hegemony not only against people of a racial or religious group, but also against opponents of that policy, whatever form their opposition might take."

Historian wins action over deportation

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Mr David Irving, the British historian, has successfully brought an action against the Austrian Government for deporting him from Vienna in June 1985.

Mr Irving, who visited Vienna to give a lecture on Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, was arrested at the Cafe Landtmann in the centre of Vienna and subsequently deported by Austrian police.

A spokesman for the Austrian Ministry of Justice confirmed yesterday that in an action in Austria's administrative court Mr Irving had been given his costs and been declared *persona grata*.

The spokesman said Mr Irving would also be bringing a case for wrongful arrest against the officials involved, later this year.

South African broadcast's praise of Thatcher

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The "Morning Comment" on the South African Broadcasting Corporation's (SABC) radio service, which yesterday praised Mrs Thatcher's stand against economic sanctions, has come to be regarded as a reliable guide to government thinking.

It goes out every weekday morning on the English and Afrikaans services, and is heard by most South Africans at breakfast or on the way to work.

What the radio commentary said

If any characteristic dominates the sanctions campaign against South Africa these days it is the mob mentality behind it: its unreasoning emotionalism, raised to fever pitch by media sensationalism and distortions.

The most specious justifications, the most bizarre lies, go unchallenged. Arguments against sanctions are brushed aside without thought: conversely the sanctions lobbyists dish up reasons — revealed as manifestly false on the most cursory examination — that are widely publicized and quoted as authoritative.

The result is another example of that modern publicity phenomenon, manufactured world opinion, manifested about its subject and needless of the effects of the action to which it would give rise.

It is no wonder then that so many otherwise sober political leaders have capitulated to the sanctions stampede, which makes the continuing unpromising stand of Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret

The commentary is the work of an SABC "Comment team". Direct liaison with government officials is disclaimed. "Of course, they move in the same circles, meet at cocktail parties, and know the Government's views, and often they just happen to agree with them," one SABC source said.

Founded by an Act of Parliament in 1936, the SABC was modelled on the BBC, but it never enjoyed the latter's reputation for impartiality, and since the National Party came

to power in 1948 it has been used as a blatant propaganda tool, especially in the field of news and current affairs.

At the top of the SABC hierarchy is a Board of Control, whose members are appointed by the President, Mr P. W. Botha. The chairman is Dr Brand Fourie, who was South Africa's Ambassador to the United States and the country's most senior diplomat.

The board appoints a management committee — headed by a director-general — which is in charge of the day-to-day running of the corporation. The present director-general is Mr Adrian Eksteen, another former diplomat who in the late 1970s was South Africa's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Bias is most obvious in the television news bulletins. During the past 18 months they have shown little of the violence in black townships and the brutal police behaviour.

Television was introduced in 1976 and there are now four channels. TV 1 is shared by Afrikaans and English (programmes until 8pm are in one language and those after 8pm are in the other language, the order changing each day). TV2 (Zulu and Xhosa) and TV3 (Sotho and Tswana) carry programmes in African languages.

TV4 is a new entertainment channel, in English and Afrikaans, which relies heavily on American situation comedies, many involving black actors. Some see this as an attempt to get white South Africans accustomed to the idea of having blacks in their sitting-rooms, if initially only on the small screen.

In the non-news area, changing attitudes have been reflected in bolder TV plays which have explored previously untouchable subjects as sexual relations between people of different races.

New service: SABC's revenue comes mainly from licence fees and advertising, of which it has so far had a monopoly. A new subscriber TV service, M-Net TV, is in the offing. It remains to be seen how much freedom M-Net TV will be allowed.

Trade unions take lead in black resistance

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The arrest of a leading black South African trade union official on Wednesday at Johannesburg airport, as he was returning from a visit to the United States, has highlighted the role being played by trade

unions in black resistance to the white-led Government.

It is not possible under the emergency regulations in force since June 12 to name the official, who is a leading member of the Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA), which



Sister Clare Harkin (left) after being released from detention at Pollsmoor prison, South Africa. On Wednesday Mr Justice Marais found that her arrest in Guguletu on June 23 and detention under the emergency regulations was illegal. She was detained after a funeral in New Crossroads, when she intervened in a beating, and was said to have sworn obscenely at a policeman and hindered him in the course of his duty.

claims a total membership of 51,000.

The Government refuses to give either the names or the number of people arrested under the emergency, but according to the Labour Monitoring Group, an independent body, more than 1,500 trade union officials and members have been detained at one time or another.

The retail, pharmaceutical and mining industries have all been hit by protest strikes, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the country's biggest, predominantly black labour federation, with an estimated 500,000 members, is planning a "day of action" next Monday.

It is not yet clear what form the action will take. Any public call by Cosatu for strikes or boycotts could be regarded as "subversive".

In a country where most normal forms of political action are denied to blacks, trade unions, which were made legal for blacks only in 1979, inevitably have become one of the main channels for the expression of political, as well as social and economic, grievances.

Andreotti facing uphill task

From A Correspondent, Rome

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the veteran Christian Democrat who has been Italy's Prime Minister five times, was yesterday called in to try to form a government and fill the vacuum caused by the resignation two weeks ago of Signor Bettino Craxi.

Signor Andreotti, Foreign Minister in the Craxi Government, was summoned by President Francesco Cossiga after two weeks of vain efforts to patch up a quarrel between the Christian Democrats and Socialists.

But unless Signor Andreotti, aged 67, can persuade the Socialists to join his government — which seems unlikely at present — his administration is almost certainly doomed to lack a majority in Parliament.

In these circumstances it would not be expected to last very long, and there is now a very real possibility of general elections in Italy either in the autumn or next spring.

The bitter quarrel between the Socialists and the Christian Democrats over who should hold the job of Prime Minister in the coalition has now developed into a trial of strength in which neither side seems willing to lose face by backing down.

The five-party formula is recognized by all the parties in the outgoing Government to be the only viable administration in the present Parliament which does not involve calling in the powerful Communists.

But the Socialists demand unconditional support for a new Craxi administration. The Christian Democrats say they will agree to Signor Craxi staying on only until the end of this year. Alternatively they will support him until the end of the legislature in 1988 as long as he agrees to back their leadership of the Government for the next five years.

US civil defence is in a parlous state

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

With a budget of 55 cents (36p) per citizen, US civil defence is in a parlous state. According to a new report, any ability to protect the population and operate the government in the aftermath of a nuclear war is "low and declining".

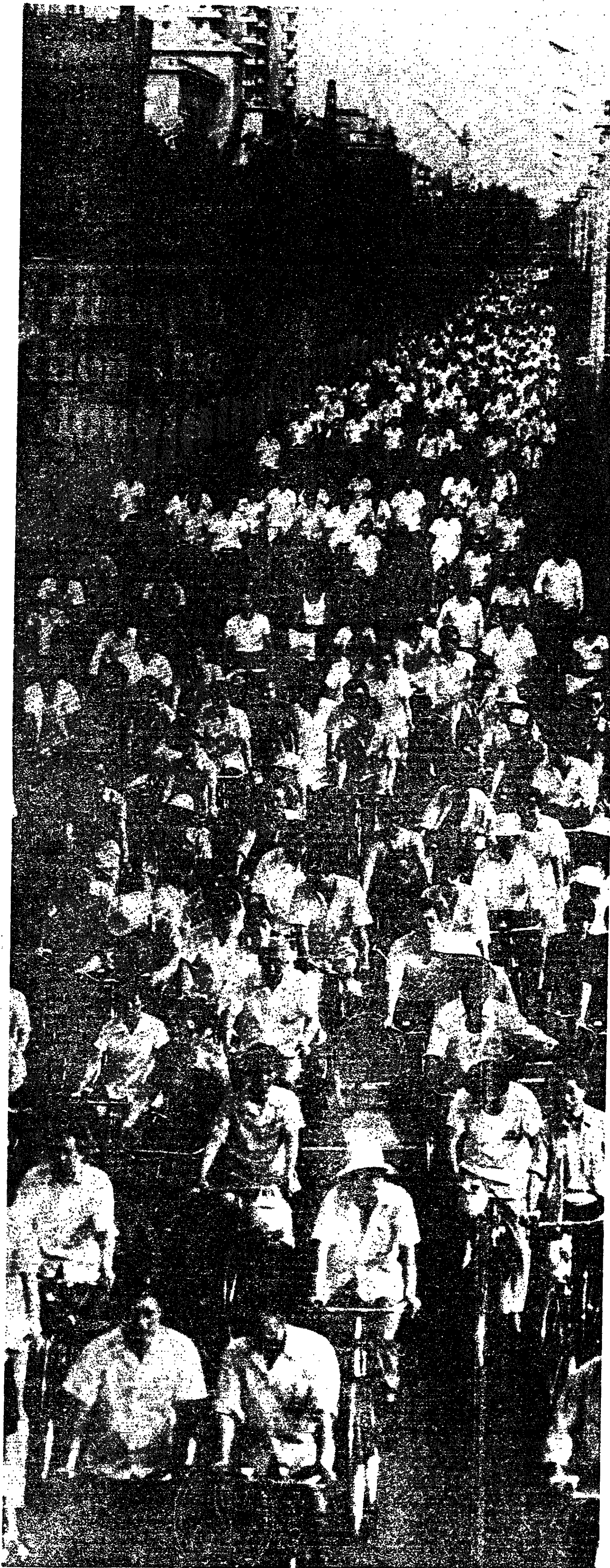
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema), which is charged with coordinating and supporting the civil defence network, said a programme modelled on the extensive Swiss system would probably require a sustained annual budget of \$9 billion (£6 billion).

The budget request for next year is \$130 million, which pays for such things as the emergency operating centres established by every state

except Florida. The report says most of them lack what would be needed to function after a nuclear war.

The Reagan Administration has now informed state governments that they will no longer receive funds under the Civil Defence Act for natural disaster planning unless they also prepare for nuclear war. The move reflects the Government's determination to put more emphasis on nuclear war survival. However, Fema has reassured states that funds appropriated for hurricane relief and flood control will not be affected.

There is resistance by many states to spending millions of dollars on protection against nuclear attack.



We've finally found an answer to this ancient Chinese puzzle.

In the Chinese capital of Beijing (Peking) the bicycle is still the most popular form of transport.

Almost too popular you might say.

Because at 7.15 every morning, a few million cyclists on their way to work converge on the city centre and create one almighty traffic jam.

It's a ticklish little problem that had baffled the authorities for years until just recently they hit upon an answer 6,000 miles away.

Here at Plessey in Britain.

The green light.

What brought Plessey to the attention of China was our unique traffic control system that's already in operation in the UK. To date, eight major cities have installed it. Another six have it on order.

For Beijing, we specially adapted the system from its usual motor vehicle basis and developed detector techniques to allow for the smaller metal content and slower speeds of the bicycle.

Now, we're about to supply, install and commission hardware and software for the project.

This includes intersection controllers, detectors, plus computer management with operator peripherals and wallmap displays.

So, 15 months from now, Beijing's cyclists should be happily freewheeling again.

All systems go.

Our traffic control systems are merely the tip of the iceberg as far as Plessey's activities go.

We're dedicated to technology in areas as far ranging as telecommunications, defence and micro-electronics.

Our investment for the future too, goes beyond research and development and into people.

In recent years we have recruited up to 10% of the nation's brightest electronics graduates.

Many of them stay with us and become part of our management structure. So that most of our divisions have managing directors in their forties—with a strong entrepreneurial spirit.

Our operating profits over the past 5 years underline the fact. They show an increase of 89% with a compound annual rate of growth in profit before tax of 15%.

And this over the most testing period for any electronics company spanning as it did the huge technological change from analogue to digital electronic systems.

The fast lane.

The next few years look particularly healthy for us in the area of new product development.

Equally, initiatives in the United States, Europe and Australia suggest a substantial strengthening of our international operations.

For this success to continue, it is vital that we preserve the qualities which make us unique as a company.

And we believe that we can only do this by maintaining our independence.

Having just helped a whole city to speed up again, we'd hate to see ourselves slowing down.

PLESSEY
The height of high technology.

Suicide beach

Shin Bet admit co

Boom time

Anti-inflation fall victim t

From A Correspondent

When Brazil declared a...
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Chernobyl its sixth

By Mar

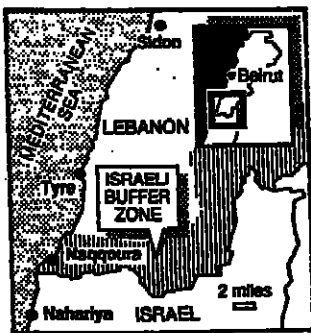
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Suicide guerrillas in fierce beach battle with Israelis

From Robert Fisk Beirut

For the first time, Palestinian and Lebanese guerrilla groups mounted a joint operation against the Israelis in southern Lebanon yesterday, engaging Israeli troops in a suicidal two-hour gun battle that left four of their own men and two Israeli soldiers dead. Nine other Israeli soldiers were wounded in the fierce fighting on a Mediterranean beach just south of the UN headquarters at Naqoura in the early hours of the morning, during which the Palestinians and Lebanese hurled grenades at Israeli troops. The boat on which they were trying to sail south towards Israel had been intercepted and set on fire by an Israeli naval patrol.



Unconfirmed reports from southern Lebanon yesterday said that two other Israeli soldiers had been so badly wounded that they were not expected to live, while three other guerrillas, two Lebanese and a Palestinian, survived the battle and had been taken prisoner.

claiming responsibility for the attempt to infiltrate to Israel in what they described as "a seaborne suicide operation". The statement claimed that five Israeli soldiers had been killed just north of the Israeli coastal town of Nahariya.

In fact, the guerrillas never reached Israel. They beached their burning dinghy on the Lebanese coast just north of the Israeli frontier but inside Israel's occupation zone in southern Lebanon.

For two hours, UN troops at their nearby headquarters heard explosions and heavy shooting from the beach to the south and saw Israeli helicopters firing onto the coastline.

The Israelis put up illumination flares for most of the two-hour battle, but still apparently failed to capture all the guerrillas.

In Sidon, SSNP officials claimed that they had been in touch with three survivors by radio. They said that their attack had been carried out to commemorate the death of the founder of their party, Anton Saadeh, who was shot by a Lebanese Government firing squad for leading an armed revolt in 1951. The SSNP advocates the merger of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the old Palestine, Iraq, Kuwait and Cyprus into a greater Syria.

According to the Israelis, the guerrillas were seen by the crew of an Israeli Dabur naval patrol boat as they were sailing in a rubber dinghy off the coastline at 3.30 yesterday morning.

According to a wounded Israeli soldier, interviewed later on Israeli armed forces radio, the guerrillas' boat was hit by Israeli tracer from a range of 200 yards.

"It was hit by tracers and went up in flames," the soldier said. "We came within 20 yards ... it was already burning on the beach, and then they threw a grenade."

A few hours after the battle, shells were fired from gun positions of the Israeli Army and its proxy Lebanese "South Lebanon Army" militia in the occupation zone. The bombardment fell on the Shia Muslim village of Kfar Rummeh, where, according to local police reports, a girl, aged 12, was killed and her younger brother wounded.

The Syrians are clearly going to be identified with yesterday's attack; both groups involved draw their inspiration — and their weapons — from Damascus, Syria.

It seems, it is prepared to impose its security plans upon Beirut but is in no mood to encourage an end to the guerrilla war against its Israeli enemy in southern Lebanon.



Bodies of three guerrillas lie on the beach after the firefight as Israeli troops stand guard.

Troubled Paris news agency hit by strike

From Diana Geddes Paris

Unions representing the 2,000 journalists and workers at Agence France-Presse (AFP), one of the world's four largest international press agencies, began a 24-hour strike at noon yesterday in protest against the management's recently announced draconian "recovery plan", which will cost 300 jobs.

On Tuesday the agency's board of directors endorsed a proposal to shed 300 jobs within the next three years, half of them belonging to journalists, after hearing that the agency made a loss last year of 63.7 million francs (£6 million) on a turnover of 700 million francs.

Although AFP had budgeted for a substantial deficit in 1985 — in view of a costly development plan launched the previous year — its losses were much higher than expected. In addition, its income was lower than predicted because of fierce competition.

AFP is technically an independent agency, though 56 per cent of its income comes from the 340 French government agencies throughout the world which take its service. A disproportionate increase in the fees paid by the 340 has been ruled out, on the basis that AFP would risk losing its independence.

Shin Bet officials admit cover-up

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Two senior Shin Bet officials, who were granted pardons for their parts in the cover-up of the deaths in custody of two Palestinian hijackers, have explained anonymously to the High Court of Justice that one concealed the role of the Shin Bet in the killings and the other helped witnesses concoct evidence to fool the inquiry.

The admissions were made known in depositions put before the court yesterday by their lawyers.

The junior officials who took part in the actual killings have not been granted pardons, but their lawyers are

expected to apply for them if they are charged following a police inquiry into the affair.

Meanwhile, the court has announced it will hear the many outstanding cases in the Shin Bet affair on July 20. These will include hearing the Government's reason for refusing to hold an inquiry into what happened at the time of the Palestinians' deaths.

Mr Yosef Harish, the Attorney-General, has said he will tell the hearing that the police inquiry cannot be stopped if, by then, the Government still continues to refuse to set up a secret judicial inquiry.

Mr Harish has said he would prefer a judicial inquiry

PLO man quits Jordan

By Our Foreign Staff

Tamir (Renter) — Mr Khalil al-Wazir, Mr Yassir Arafat's military deputy in the Fatah group, left Amman for Iraq yesterday after his expulsion from Jordan following the closure of PLO offices.

Leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization have

begun an emergency meeting to review relations with Jordan because of the closure by Amman of 25 PLO offices.

A PLO official said yesterday that the group's leaders will discuss the effect of the Jordanian move on the future of the Palestinian people's struggle and its consequences for inter-Arab relations.

Boom time in Brazil

Anti-inflation plan may fall victim to success

From A Correspondent, Rio de Janeiro

When Brazil declared a sweeping economic reform five months ago, the Government vowed to avoid the spectre of economic stagnation that looms over most of Latin America.

But while the neighbouring countries are slogging in recession or growing only grudgingly, Brazil is in the middle of a remarkable economic boom. Retail sales are booming, employment has plunged in main cities, and salaries have jumped an estimated 30 per cent in real value in recent months.

Business is so good, in fact, that many here are worried that the risky economic stabilization plan announced last February, which overnight reduced inflation from 250 per cent to nearly zero, may become a victim of success.

Instead of cooling down the economy, President Sarney's inflation-fighting plan, the *plano cruzado*, ended up pouring more fuel on the fire. Now, some economists argue, the economy is dangerously overheated.

Aided in part by the government price freeze, consumers are buying with record frenzy. Not just basic goods but many of the more expensive items, such as electric mixers, colour televisions and microcomputers, lead the sales. Manufacturers cannot keep enough of such goods in stock. A new car buyer must wait at least six months for many models.

Airports are jammed as the demand for airline tickets jumped 25 per cent in the last four months. Cheap fuel and larger take-home wages have increased automobile travel and created record traffic jams

in cities like Rio and São Paulo.

Despite the consumer boom, industrialists appear to be waiting for firmer signs of economic stability to make significant investments for plant expansion.

Now, a number of industries are producing at full capacity, resulting in severe "bottle-necks", or constrictions in production.

In São Paulo, centre of the world's tenth largest automobile industry, 8,000 new cars are sitting in factory lots because of a scarcity in headlights, tyres and gear boxes. Soft-drink vendors must wait until 1988 to place new orders for equipment.

In cities, a severe shortage of skilled and semi-skilled labour has stalled a number of construction projects.

A year ago the growing pains had not yet become acute. In 1985 gross national product, the measure of a nation's economic activity, expanded by 8 per cent, one of the highest in the world.

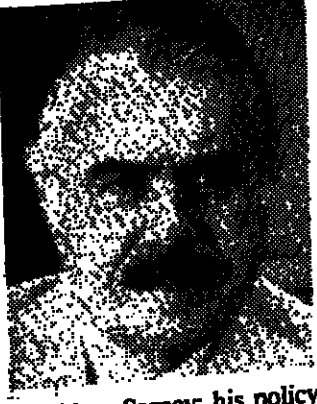
Brazilians, battered by four successive years of austerity, were just beginning to regain buying power and the Government counted heavily on the growing trade revenues to pay the \$10 billion (£6.5 billion) interest bill on its foreign debt.

But now there is a growing chorus for the Government to take stronger action. "Prices are the best way to rationalize demand," Senhor Celso Martone, a University of São Paulo economist, said. "With the uncontrolled consumer boom, the Government risks an explosion in inflation when the price freeze is finally ended."

The head of the influential São Paulo Federation of Private Industries said the failure of the Government to relax price controls "would be like an ostrich putting its head underground in order not to see reality".

Last week the National Monetary Council opted to restrict consumer credit and loan operations, but Brasília has purposely avoided measures that would squeeze the consumer in favour of larger business profits.

"I am not going to allow (such) privileges to return to this country," Senhor Dilson Funaro, the Finance Minister, said.



President Sarney: his policy poured fuel on the fire.

Chernobyl inquiry gets its sixth chairman

By Mary Dejevsky

Mr Vladimir Gusev has become the sixth person to be named as chairman of the Soviet Government's commission into the Chernobyl disaster in the three months since the accident.

It was initially thought that Mr Gusev, whose appointment was announced at the weekend, had replaced the first chairman of the commission, Mr Boris Shcherbina, after speculation that he had become ill.

But Soviet radio broadcasts that four other officials — all

with the rank of Deputy Prime Minister — have also been described as "chairman of the commission".

Explanations for this six-headed chairmanship include that it was always intended to rotate the chairmanship among officials from different sectors.

ATHENS: The Greek Government has banned the making of wholewheat bread after receiving reports that much of this year's wheat harvest has been contaminated by fallout from the Chernobyl disaster (Mario Modiano writes).

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Dhaka violence erupts after opposition snub to Parliament

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

Violent clashes broke out between thousands of opposition supporters and security forces on the streets of Dhaka yesterday as the newly-elected Parliament opened.

The inaugural session marked the first phase in the return of civilian rule after more than four years of martial law.

More than 300 people were injured as riot police and paramilitary units fired on demonstrators shouting slogans for the immediate end of military rule, hospital sources and eye-witnesses said.

About 100 people were arrested after the clashes, police officials said.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, chief of the Awami League, announced a parallel "parliament" with 103 opposition members belonging to the League and an eight-party alliance, after police said she could not enter the Parliament Building chanting slogans.

"We are holding a session of the people's parliament," Sheikh Hasina said at the Parliament gate as opposition members accused President Ershad of delaying democracy.

While General Ershad promised in an address inside the Parliament to speed up the restoration of civilian rule, supporters of the former ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the fundamentalist

Jamaat-i-Islami hurled stones and exploded hand bombs. A dozen policemen were injured in the clashes.

Police burst tear-gas shells in several places to disperse mobs breaking road barricades set up to prevent demonstrators reaching the Parliament Building.

More than 5,000 policemen were deployed around the building in the morning as tens of thousands of opposition supporters began to gather for a protest march.

A total of 119 opposition and independent members boycotted the opening session.

A parliamentary official said 204 members, which included 199 from the ruling Jatiyo Party, were in the 330-seat house. Seven by-elections are due next month.

General Ershad said that the Parliament would become the nerve centre of all national activities in future. But he gave no date for the ending of martial law, imposed when he seized power in March 1982.

Earlier on Wednesday, General Ershad appointed a civilian Prime Minister, Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, to head a 26-member Cabinet, dropping all serving generals from the Government for the first time.

Meanwhile, the Parliament was adjourned until July 13.



People using rafts in the fishing town of Malabon, near Manila, to get through waist-deep floodwaters.

Yugoslavs jail six for sabotage

Belgrade (Reuters) — Six Albanian nationalists have been sentenced to a total of 60 years in jail for hostile actions and sabotage, the Belgrade daily *Politika* said yesterday.

The sentences were passed on Wednesday by the district court in Bar, a port city in the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro which borders Albania.

The six were accused of hostile propaganda against Yugoslavia and planning acts of sabotage. They had amassed considerable amounts of explosives and weapons for this purpose, the report said.

Typhoon pounds Philippines

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Typhoon Peggy cast a destructive path across the northern Philippines yesterday, killing more than 40 people, flooding huge areas and leaving behind a wide trail of wrecked houses, crops and buildings before heading towards south-east China.

The first typhoon of the season struck the main Philippine island of Luzon on Wednesday with 109 mph winds and torrential rain, uprooting crops and flooding huge tracks of prime agricultural land.

Early reports from Red Cross field officers pinpointed the provinces of Benguet, Nueva Ecija and Pangasinan,

north of Manila, as being the worst hit with thousands left homeless and sheltering in evacuation centres.

More than 130,000 people were affected — more than half of them evacuees — and more than 3,000 homes were completely or partly destroyed, according to the Ministry of Social Services and Development officers in just two of the four devastated regions.

With the restoration of communications in these two regions, the number of deaths, and the estimates of crops and property damage are expected to rise sharply.

Landslides isolated the mountain resort city of Baguio,

where the bodies of 14 people were recovered from beneath the rubble of mud, boulders and trees which crushed and buried squatter huts clinging to the hillside.

Although 250 miles from the eye of the typhoon, Manila was buffeted by high winds and driving rain. Swirling waist-high floods inundated the low-lying suburbs.

Floodwater in swollen city canals, clogged with refuse, washed away scores of squatter shanties and by mid-morning 15 evacuation centres set up in schools and municipal halls were full. All classes were suspended and workers in government and private offices ordered home.

Militancy in Finland

Middle class take over strike banner

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

The unruly state of Finland's industrial relations in the spring has underlined the growing importance of the Scandinavian trend towards white-collar militancy.

Strikes are becoming more and more middle-class affairs. More hours per union member have been lost in white-collar than in blue-collar strikes every year since 1982.

The last conflict, which was settled just before the summer holiday season began on July 1, was the electricians' strike, which broke recent records by lasting almost three months.

The most spectacular conflict was the four-week strike by one of the Civil Service and state employees' unions. Although disruptive, there was little actual damage. But it was an important milestone towards new militancy.

Even most civil servants in Foreign Ministry went out, and it created serious difficulties in external information after the Chernobyl disaster.

The white-collar militancy began in the 1970s when women-dominated groups, such as nursing and kindergarten teachers, started to demand reasonable wages. After this strikes spread to numerous professions, from librarians to doctors.

Specialists in and out of trade unions say that the reasons behind the white-collar militancy are clearly financial. Centralized wage and price agreements which have dominated Finnish industrial relations since the mid-1970s have created clear disparities and favoured traditional blue-collar unions.

White-collar unions have not had wage rises and other benefits brought about by favourable economic conditions. Finland has had steady 3

per cent yearly growth in GNP, relative low unemployment at about 6 per cent, and steadily declining inflation for several years. But white-collar workers have not been able to keep up with manual workers' wages and many professions have also lost much of their prestige.

This has led to clearly felt frustrations, because teachers, nurses, pharmacists and most other traditional middle-class professionals cannot dream of earning as much as a skilled carpenter or metalworker, not to mention smaller, specialized groups such as typographers.

Now 85 per cent of the members of Akava, the central organization for academically trained professionals, are willing to resort to strikes to improve their lot. The same figure was only 23 per cent as recently as 1982.

Structural changes in the country's economy have given white-collar unions more members and confidence, while the old unions belonging to Sak, Finland's equivalent of the TUC, are losing members. It is estimated that Akava will gain almost 50 per cent more members by the year 2000, and other white-collar unions will grow at similar speed.

This year the white-collar unions showed their strength by signing a centralized wages and taxes agreement with the employers and the Government without Sak.

This forced Sak to re-establish its prominence by a general strike. It lasted only two days but showed that it is still the most important union organization and it wants to play a decisive role in negotiations between the unions, the employers and the Government.

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HEALTHY SERVICES

Nurses in Israel lose pay fight

From Ian Murray Jerusalem

Israel's 11,000 hospital nurses yesterday ended their 18-day-old strike, having failed to force the Government into negotiations on a new pay deal.

The strike was called off after an agreement was reached to discuss ways of improving working conditions so that young people would be attracted to the profession. But the deal specifically avoided any talk of improving pay.

The nurses had strongly denied government claims that they were among the best paid civil servants, receiving a take-home pay of about £500 a month. They said the true figure was nearer half that amount, even after a promised 12 per cent arbitration award was taken into consideration.

The Government had refused to talk about pay, saying that any increase to the nurses would break the national wage agreement on which the success of the country's economic austerity plan depended.

The nurses have nevertheless been promised a new trade union to protect their interests, in line with earlier demands.

Fuel crisis spreads in Australia

Sydney (Reuters) — The New South Wales government yesterday introduced strict petrol rationing as efforts continued to end a petrol strike threatening most of the country.

The strike by the Federated Storemen and Packers Union, which controls petrol distribution outlets, has already forced Victoria to ration petrol and South Australia may soon have to follow. The strikers are demanding improved retirement benefits.

The Federal Industrial Relations Minister, Mr Ralph Willis, warned in a radio interview yesterday that the Government, which has so far rejected opposition demands to force the strikers back to work, might intervene if the dispute is not resolved quickly.

However, the labour situation appeared to be improving slightly in other sectors. Dockers, who walked out for three days last week, have reached a settlement with employers over the retirement issue. Domestic airline pilots also dropped strike plans after reaching an agreement on Wednesday night.

The Oil Industry Industrial Secretariat yesterday said it might seek permission from the Arbitration Commission to lay off the striking workers.

Malaysian rulers free from prosecution

From M. G. J. Pillai, Kuala Lumpur

The Malaysian High Court has ruled that the King, the nine state rulers and their Crown Princes have absolute immunity against prosecution, in what is believed to be the first decision of its kind.

An appeal could still be made to the Supreme Court but Mr Justice Harun Hashim's decision confirmed the prevailing view that Malaysia's rulers and their immediate heirs could not be sued for their public and diverse acts.

The issue came before the courts when Mr Daeng Baha Ismail, a Malaysian businessman, decided to sue the King, Sultan Mahmood Iskandar, and his son, Tunku (Prince) Ibrahim Ismail, the Crown Prince of Johore, for alleged assault three years ago. Also named in the suit were two police officers and the Government of Malaysia.

There was consternation and astonishment when the writ was filed last month, but Tan Sri Abu Talib Osman, the

Attorney-General, for the King and his son, had their names struck from the suit when it was heard this week.

Sultan Mahmood Iskandar was elected Malaysia's King in 1984 by the nine rulers, who choose one of their number for the post every five years. In 1961 the King had been removed as Crown Prince of Johore, but was restored to that position 20 years later, becoming the Sultan when his father died shortly afterwards.

Mr Daeng Ismail alleges that this restoration was unconstitutional, since the King could not be in the direct line of succession once removed from it.

By the Johore Constitution in 1895 Britain provided that the sultanate should be held by direct male heirs of the first three rulers of modern Johore.

Should there not be a male heir, the throne could go to any Johore Malay commoner approved by the State Council.

Bishop trial acquittals

St George's, Grenada (Reuters) — Prosecutors yesterday rested their case in the Maurice Bishop murder trial, throughout which some charges have been dropped against two of the 18 defendants.

The defendants are accused of murdering the former Grenada Prime Minister and seven of his associates in a bloody coup which prompted the US-led invasion of the island in October 1983.

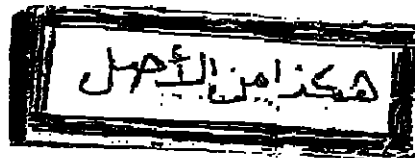
Chris Stroud and Cecil Prime were yesterday acquit-

ted of murdering three of Mr Bishop's associates.

The state has contended that the murder was planned at a meeting of the Central Committee of Mr Bishop's New Jewel Movement (NJM). Several of the accused were locked in a power struggle within the NJM.

Much of the testimony so far has come from defendants' statements, which they allege were made under torture.

The defendants are due to present their case today.



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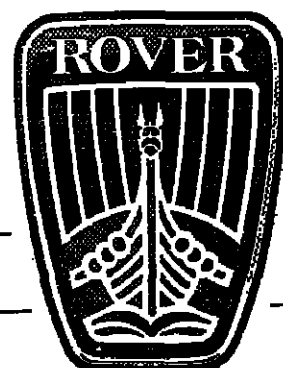
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SPECTRUM

So what is the game in Edinburgh?

A boycott by two African countries and more may follow. Or will they? Alan Franks found Edinburgh's Commonwealth Gamesmen in an oddly unruffled state with 13 days to go

This morning at the 1986 Commonwealth Games headquarters in Edinburgh's Canning Street, the countdown calendar on the wall reads "13 days to go". This also happens to be the thirteenth convention in the mainly harmonious life of the Games, and the number is living up to its reputation for ill fortune.

Once dubbed the "friendly games", they have now become engulfed in the wider confrontations over South African sanctions, and are in danger of losing whatever might have been left of their political innocence.

Yet, extraordinarily, the reported boycott of the games by two African nations is not being taken entirely seriously in Edinburgh at the moment. Nigeria's and Ghana's respective team entries of 79 and 33 still stand in the computer system at the Games village, and the accommodation for the athletes and officials has not been reallocated.

The reason is that the sports councils of the two countries had not, as of yesterday, made any official declaration of withdrawal to their opposite numbers in Edinburgh.

were putting a remarkably bullish gloss on the present crisis. Bryan Cowgill, deputy executive chairman of the games committee — and former head of BBC Television sport — emphasizes that even if diplomatic attempts at rapprochement fail, the Games will still boast more than 3,000 competitors, which would be 1,000 more than in Brisbane four years ago.

Including Nigeria and Ghana, 58 Commonwealth countries are scheduled to take part, England being the most numerous, with 299 athletes, and only five member countries (St Helena, the Solomon Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu and Tonga) will be unrepresented.

Yesterday morning, Borthwick was busy dashing off letters to his three main channels of alliance — the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Scotland — in the hope that they will be able to intervene in the boycott debate.

THERE are three great ironies here for the host city. First, Borthwick and his colleagues made precisely the same approaches in order to object to the recent tours of South Africa by the All Blacks and British Rugby Union parties.

Second, Scotland in general, and Edinburgh in particular, regard themselves as highly reciprocal parts of the Commonwealth, having educated many visiting African students in theology and the law.

Third, Borthwick himself was among Commonwealth delegates at a meeting in February in Nairobi to discuss plans for the Games — an occasion which he left with "a tremendous sense of happy anticipation by all the other



Trail blazer: Games committee chairman Ken Borthwick — recently out of Africa, currently full of hope

countries... no hint whatsoever of boycotting, or anything like that."

While in Africa, he toured Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Kenya, speaking to government ministers. He considered it, showing evident restraint, to be "odd" that Scotland should now be suffering from a political problem which emanates from Westminster. The atmosphere in Edinburgh at present has shades of that in Mexico City during the run-up to the World Cup — major international venues with experience of organizing a competition in 1970, and now attempting, against the run of economic play, to repeat those successes.

Just like the ground at Monterey before England started their World Cup matches, Meadowbank Stadium looks like the aftermath of Culloden. There is turmoil from the foyer to the field with staff working around the clock to make the premises ready for sporting guests bent on high achievement.

While the world wrangles over the rights and wrongs of competing in Edinburgh, the city itself has had its own political difficulties. Last year the endemically conservative establishment found itself in such conflict with the new left-wing council that Borthwick was reported to have said he would be glad to see the games go to Glasgow. A heresy if ever there was one.

Back at the Games' administrative centre in Canning Street, Bryan Cowgill seems like a rather weary elder statesman of sports administration. "Nothing would surprise me", he says. "Not any more; not after what I have seen in the past 15 years. Sport is at the centre stage of one of life's great theatres."

"It would be very sad, very disappointing if Nigeria and Ghana do finally pull out. Yes, of course we fear that if this happens, other African countries might follow. But I would point out, again, that even if that does happen, there will still be a huge presence here. The sad thing is that this event was conceived as a completely non-political thing."

Meanwhile, the press officer freshly installed at Canning Street, a ginger-haired giant called Ken Laird, is on the telephone to Robert Maxwell — or "RM" — awaiting a statement on the latest state of play.

LAIRD says: "The thing is that it all seems to develop as the day progresses. At the moment he says that he will say something on Friday, but I suppose there could be something before that. I really don't know."



Nothing would surprise me after what I've seen in the past 15 years. Sport is at the centre stage of one of life's great theatres

BRYAN COWGILL (above)

A fresh face for Florence

Rooms with a view are a little easier to find in Florence this year. The narrow streets and grand piazzas still echo to the tramp of tourists' feet but the accents are mainly German, Japanese or very English.

The temporary loss of the American tourist trade is particularly irksome to Florentines because 1986 had been designated as their "Year of Culture". But although the core of this Tuscan metropolis is unshakable because almost every building is an artistic treasure, its inhabitants are determined that the city will not lack modern amenities.

Over the next 15 years, a futuristic annex is planned in the suburbs of Costello and Sesto a \$25 million scheme which will include exhibition and conference halls, three hotels and housing for more than 25,000 people.

One of the prime supporters of the scheme is La Fondiaria, one of the top three Italian insurance companies. As one of the city's largest landowners — sizeable slices of Piazza Repubblica and many other historic buildings come under its domain — it is required by law to invest part of the money accrued from rent in new buildings.

The rents are also restricted by law and the ancient buildings are costly to maintain, so La Fondiaria plans to sell off many of them to finance development — a move which will help the company politically as well as financially.

Signor Michele Ventura, the communist vice-mayor of Florence, is equally keen on the project. "Everything of worth that has been built here is very old", he says. "Now we have a chance to build something new that the city desperately needs, and we must make certain it is of the highest quality so that it will be a worthy representation of our age."

But the conservationists are being headed as well. Already \$5.8 million has been set aside for planting trees on the new site so that any new scars will be camouflaged, at least in part.

Richard Evans

Paul Vallely joins Monsignor Bruce Kent, who leaves Keswick today on the tenth leg of his walk for peace

Walking the warhead road

With a look of benign resignation, Monsignor Bruce Kent stood on the stage of Motherwell Civic Centre and looked down upon his audience. To the left a septuagenarian Clydeside communist was waving his walking stick and shouting "Step outside!" His intended victim, a balding moustachioed man in a denim jacket, was declaiming "I'm a Catholic and a Conservative and I'm proud of it. What about the persecution of Christians in Russia?"

To the front an earnest young man from an enigmatic organization called the Coalition for Peace through Security was holding forth to a Motherwell housewife in loud, rather pompous tones about Utilitarianism, John Stuart Mill and nuclear deterrence. "Don't patronize me," said the woman, who turned out to be a graduate in political philosophy with her own shrewd suspicions of who might be financing the mysterious coalition.

To the right a protractor of Russian extraction, making comments on the issue of Solidarity in Poland, was being told by the city's provost to ask a question or sit down. Enthusiastic supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament advanced as if to eject the man, who was now announcing that he was a deacon in the Russian Orthodox Church.

From the back a woman's voice cut plaintively through the chaos. "I thought this was supposed to be a peace meeting," she lamented.

Bruce Kent has long since come to realize that the subject of peace is capable of raising the most belligerent acrimony. It was the third day of his 500-mile sponsored walk from the Polish submarine base at Faslane to the Royal Ordnance factory at Burghfield in Berkshire. He is following one of the routes which nuclear warheads regularly take from the base to the factory for servicing and updating. It appeared that controversy was to be his walking companion all the way.

The next morning it was there with him by 9.15. He had risen early, and after a short prayer meeting presented himself at the previous day's finishing point on the southern outskirts of the little Lanarkshire town of Larkhall. His clerical grey and dog collar were packed away in his massive leather suitcase on board the mini-van which served as support vehicle. In their stead he wore light green Rohan bags, solid training shoes and a sweat shirt proclaiming his aspiration of a nuclear-free world and announcing that his fund raising

on the walk was for War on Want as well as CND. "We ought to make the point that there is no genuine problem of poverty or malnutrition", he said. "The world has the resources to eradicate them but we choose to waste the money on arms. We asked War on Want to choose two projects which highlighted the problem. One is in Eritrea, where people suffer because of Soviet guns. The other is in Nicaragua, where they suffer because of American military aid." That said, he set out on the stretch from Larkhall southwards towards the English border.

Just past the first roundabout, two bedraggled figures emerged from a hedge. It was the deacon and the earnest young man from the night before, now wearing T-shirts which ambiguously exhorted us to "Remember Hungary". All that day they were to march a few hundred yards ahead of Bruce Kent's party. They carried a placard which read: "CND marching to surrender".

The Monsignor was not too perturbed. Most of the passing traffic seemed merely to regard them as the official vanguard preparing the way and making straight the path. Cars tooted an amiable greeting to both sets of protesters.

The degree of support from car horns, passing waves from lorry drivers and vocal greetings from fellow pedestrians surprised me, but Kent seemed to take it for granted. His walking togs revealed a generous stomach which the clerical garb had concealed the night before, but he looked fit and healthy and impressively tanned from the previous days of Scottish sunshine.

He set a furious pace. Out in front the deacon and the earnest young man seemed to have trouble keeping ahead. The deacon was walking badly, limping and sticking to the main route, while his companion limped energetically to and fro, dishing out anti-CND leaflets from a plastic carrier bag. Kent, who had acolytes from local CND groups along the route to give out his leaflets, suffered neither handicap and had a mischievous twinkle in his eye. The more the other two glanced anxiously behind them, the more vigorously he pushed on.

"You have to admire them, in a way", he said. One of Bruce Kent's most engaging



The long march: superwalker Bruce Kent sets a furious pace

characteristics is that, though he is one of the leading proponents in Britain of what is now known as single-issue politics, he does not suffer from commensurate tunnel vision. There were 15 miles to do that day and he was happy to range over as many topics of conversation and more.

There were, of course, his basic theses on nuclear disarmament. On a strategic level, that Britain does not need an independent nuclear weapon system. On a technical level, that the increasing sophistication of missiles constantly shortens the time for correcting mistakes. On a tactical level, that the more accurate weapons become, the more destabilizing is their effect because they require more missiles from the other side. On a moral level, that a deterrent which depends upon the willingness to retaliate with weapons of mass murder is unjustifiable in any sense.

revealing sense of simple moral absolutism. It is the classic moralism of orthodox Catholicism. Kent cannot see why a church that holds views of such certainty and clarity on issues like abortion is not just as unequivocal about the sin inherent in the ownership of weapons capable of destroying the world. Indeed, he feels as strongly about the perils of peaceful nuclear power. That, too, he sees as some kind of perversion of the natural order.

When Monsignor Kent moves away from CND issues, however, he is revealed as a man of moderate instincts, as befits a priest who in other circumstances might well by now be a bishop. He speaks with unease about the speed with which the Latin mass was abolished, although he welcomed it himself, he recognized the heartache it caused to many older Roman Catholics. He has common-sense attitudes to the growing role of women in the Church. He has an Englishman's distaste for the Machiavellian intrigue surrounding the Vatican's finances.

He also has an admirable humility about his own spiritual development. "I was very much a Saul in those days, my main aim was to make more Catholics", he said of his early years as a priest, before involvement with the peace movement widened his ecumenism and openness to other Christians.

The son of a Canadian businessman, Kent was educated by Jesuits at Stonyhurst, the Roman Catholic public school, and was commissioned as an officer in the 6th Royal Tank Regiment, where he first got an inkling of his vocation. His non-Catholic father was none too pleased by the idea, so the young Kent went to Brasenose College, Oxford, where, to buy time, he read law and spent "three lousy eating years" before joining St Edmunds Seminary at Ware to study for the priesthood. As a young priest he was secretary to Cardinal Heenan and chairman of the Westminster Diocesan Schools Commission and, church observers say, clearly marked out for a bishopric.

"One knows that if you come out of the right sort of stable, that if you want promotion and a career, it's all there before you. It was certainly open to me. If I'd kept my mouth shut and behaved myself, all would have been well. But I couldn't have done that and I'm very glad I didn't. Being a bishop is not the only thing in this world."

Bruce Kent took that decision deliberately when in the happiest years of his career — as chaplain to London University — his horizons were widened by the students and clerics he met, many of them from the Third World. Particularly influential was the Archbishop of Bombay, Thomas Roberts, who was courageous on issues of nuclear deterrence and birth control in the 1960s.

Kent's conscious politicization was born because of the attitude of the British Government in supporting Federal Nigeria in the civil war during which a million Biafrans died of starvation. He flew out there on an aid mission.

"That had a very sharpening effect. I realized it was not enough just to go on talking morality. You've actually got to look at the levers of power and who's pulling them and then get hold of them. The church has to pull them in the direction of justice."

cord with traditional views on the role of a Catholic priest. Although attitudes to that have changed considerably since the Second Vatican Council, there were still a number of prominent right-wing Catholics who put pressure on Cardinal Basil Hume over Kent's activity as general secretary of CND. Bruce Kent resigned his position as a paid employee of the secular organization last year. It was, he insists, his own decision. He is now an elected vice-chairman of CND. The distinction has not silenced the critics but, according to one fellow priest, it has given Cardinal Hume much firmer ground on which to defend the turbulent priest.

Towards the end of the morning's walk, he came across a crumpled leaflet discarded by an unimpressed passer-by. It was one of those the deacon had been distributing. Bruce Kent read it with interest. He had walked so well (hill-walking and friends, according to Who's Who, are his recreations) that he entered the village of Lenmahaog an hour ahead of schedule. He wandered into the little 12th century churchyard and sat down on a bench to read. There he considered the leaflet and expressed astonishment at the vitriol his nuclear dissent generated in some quarters.

"Some of those who oppose us are just paid propagandists. Others have vested interests. But many are people of good conscience. I think that in Britain there is a fear of the other and that it is felt that we are making it more likely that 'the other' is going to dominate our lands and our people. So we are seen as a kind of Trojan horse for an enemy and therefore much resented. What we may say on particular weapons systems may be right, but they think that as a group we are about the business of collapsing western defence systems as we know them."

"I always quote from Einstein, who said: 'With the splitting of the atom everything has changed except our modes of thinking, and thus we drift towards unparalleled disaster.'"

That was what CND still needed to convey to those people of good conscience. He sat on the tomb and pondered. The Scottish morning air was soft and the sunshine gentle. Into the churchyard ran a small boy.

"Hey, mister," he said to the priest in walker's clothing, "are you the grave digger?"

"No, I'm just sitting in the graveyard," the cleric replied with a smile.

Such decisions did not ap-

THE TIMES SATURDAY - Portfolio Gold - £12,000 to be won. The screening of Woody Allen. Spies abroad in China. Conducting the Proms. Looking back on imperial rivalry. Lorin Maazel on a double first.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 999. ACROSS: 1 Strong point (6), 5 Nepalese soldier (6), 8 Benni natives (3), 9 Meanwhile (6), 10 Enrapture (6), 11 Pet parasite (4), 12 Keep up (8), 14 Behind (6), 17 Foamy (6), 19 Oedipus' daughter (8), 22 True statement (4), 24 Came to pass (6), 25 Willow work (6), 26 Time (3), 27 Tilt-taking clergyman (6), 28 Milfoil (6). DOWN: 2 Match (5), 3 Copy (7), 4 Therapeutic course (7), 6 Nizhni-Novgorod (5), 7 Hemp extract (7), 13 Nether (3), 15 Genuine (7), 16 Small carpet (3), 17 Non-toll motorway (7), 18 Official (7), 20 Clumsy (5), 21 Starer (5), 23 Apostles' creed (5). SOLUTION TO NO 998: ACROSS: 8 Geiger counter, 9 Ice, 10 Mark Twain, 11 Toted, 13 Escalator, 14 Refuges, 19 Naps, 22 Biscuits, 24 Lob, 25 Indiscriminate, 26 Pawn, 1 Egmont, 2 Biscot, 3 Bermudas, 4 Scarce, 5 Punt, 6 Altman, 7 Trance, 12 Ole 14 Singing, 15 Cup, 16 Remain, 17 Facade, 18 Skis, 20 Platte, 21 Aubade, 23 Duet.

The... Marjorie Wallace... The forgotten illness... HI... S... Up to 20% off... 17% off... 15% off... 10% off... Up to 15%... As well as great shop soiled a... 25% off a... Up to... 30% off Second... 30% off... INTEREST...

هكذا من الرجل

The sword at America's bedside



Where death lies dormant: the cavernous Fort Washington shelter, from which Juan Gonzalez (inset) set out on a ferry ride to catastrophe. How many more like him?

Murder on the Staten Island ferry. Two dead. Just another American nightmare? Not really. Marjorie Wallace, author of The Times' award-winning series on schizophrenia, reveals how potential killers are being sent out onto the streets and into harm's way



The forgotten illness

The ferry from Manhattan to Staten Island was passing the newly refurbished Statue of Liberty last Monday when panic broke out among the 500 passengers. Juan Gonzalez, a 43-year-old Cuban immigrant, was rushing round the decks brandishing a 24-inch pearl-handled sword. Within moments he killed a man and a woman and wounded nine other people. He is one of the 7,500 homeless people, many of them mentally ill, who spend their nights in New York shelters. An even larger number, frightened by the desperate conditions, prefer to sleep rough in the port authority bus station on 42nd Street. Gonzalez chose as his bedroom the Fort Washington shelter, an enormous drill hall in Harlem, which he shared with 900 other down-and-outs. The hundreds of iron cots are arranged in neat rows, like a first-aid post after some great disaster. The dim lights are on all night. There is the continual noise of human torment - screams, moans and shouting to imaginary voices. Around the edge of this great raft of beds, red-uniformed attendants stand ready to sort out the arguments and fights which break out occasionally. The Thursday before the boat killings, Gonzalez had been the centre of a disturbance. Attendants called the police when he started screaming: "I'm going to kill. God told me to". The Presbyterian Hospital held him for 48 hours,

recognized his symptoms as paranoid schizophrenia, and discharged him back on the street on Saturday night, suggesting he should seek out-patient treatment at Harlem Hospital. In New York, as in Britain, hospital policy is to discharge mentally-ill patients as quickly as possible. "It was a terrible mistake", admitted a psychiatrist at the Presbyterian Hospital. On Monday, instead of visiting Harlem Hospital, Gonzalez, who, like many others, was probably too ill to realize he needed treatment, took out his sword and bought a ticket to Staten Island. He is now in King's County hospital, New York, undergoing a 30-day "evaluation". The case is typical of thousands, except that very few schizophrenia sufferers are violent, merely sad. In the United States, as in Britain, pressure from well-meaning civil liberties campaigners has brought about the run-down or closure of mental hospitals before means of looking after the patients in the community have been provided. Some years ago there were 550,000 beds in American mental hospitals to cater for two million schizophrenia sufferers. Now there are only 130,000. Sick people are being abandoned on the streets. Their presence - hundreds of thousands of them, hungry, dirty, deluded - haunts New York and the other big American cities. The scandal is so great that the mothers of this human flotilla are no longer willing to see their sons and daughters made victims of neglect. Their only choice is to keep their severely ill grown-up son or daughter at home, receiving no

help, or to lie awake at night thinking of their child sleeping in a mass night shelter or worse. They have now become so desperate that they are forming groups for political action. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill has increased the membership of its 500 affiliates by 85 per cent in the past year. "The families are angry and unwilling to remain passive", says Dr Fuller Torrey, a specialist in the management of schizophrenia. "They are going to lobby, protest

and fight for help for those whose minds have been damaged." One of the first of these protests took place a few weeks ago at the World Trade Centre in Manhattan. A group of 100 people, mostly women and dwarfed between the complex's twin towers, waved crude home-made banners and placards, and collected signatures for a letter of protest to Governor Cuomo of New York State. "We made history", said their organizer, Isabelle Blau. "This is

the first time there has been a protest in New York on behalf of the mentally ill." She is a brave woman, divorced and working as a shop-assistant in Gimbal's, a department store in Manhattan. Her large, sad eyes betray the years of anguish as she watched first one, then a second son destroyed by schizophrenia. The elder boy, now 38, went to Israel hoping that work on a kibbutz would cure him. He has been in mental hospitals for years and his mother spends her three-week holiday each year visiting him. Her second son, ill for nine years, is closer at hand. He spent years in hospital, then discharged himself. "The hospitals never look for them if they run away", says Isabelle. Frustrated by her experiences, she decided on stronger action. "The parents are too polite", she says. Typing on her old portable, she sent letters to other parents.

Soon there was a core of would-be militants. Two of her aides are Rita Kwiecinski and Rose Lange, ordinary, working-class women prepared to fight hard for their mentally-ill children. They seem hardly the stuff of which great revolutions are made, but they are determined. "Governor Cuomo will hear more from us", they say. So will many other politicians, for another centre of direct action over schizophrenia is in Capitol Hill itself. The wives of six Congressmen, some of them mothers of schizophrenics, have joined together to lobby for a better deal for the mentally ill. "Every time you look at a tramp or bum, you think that this guy had a mother", says Norma Lagomarsino whose husband, Robert, is a Representa-



From the heart: protesting parents Isabelle Blau, left, and Rose Lange

Wrong equal rights

FIRST PERSON

Gail Penney

If a decision taken recently at Exeter University were reflected in the world of sport, the World Cup might have concluded with all participating teams in order of size of the countries represented, receiving a small trophy. At Wimbledon the final ceremony could have consisted of all players receiving congratulations, lined up in order of height. The outcome of matches need not have been reported, although interested parties might have been free to make discreet inquiries. That way, invidious comparisons between winners and losers could be avoided. Next week, Exeter University will, within departments, graduate its students in alphabetical order, and at the graduation ceremony their class of degree will not be indicated. Such classification has in the past produced a livelier round of applause, as those awarded Firsts have gone forward to receive their degrees from the Chancellor, than for those at the end of a large department, awarded Thirds or Pass degrees. It seems that the Guild of Students, in consultation with sympathetic academics, has proposed the new procedure. Individual results will be known within departments or among friends. But from the point of view of parents, and the wider community represented at the ceremony, such distinctions are apparently to be deliberately obscured. Everyone knows that there is no justice in the academic world. Some students are more effortlessly brilliant; some have predicted questions more successfully than others; some have bay-fever, broken homes, unhappy love affairs. Some have worked strenuously, with disappointing results. But neither is there necessarily justice in sporting contests. Decisions of referees may be open to dispute; athletes have off-days; conditions favour one rather than another. This is accepted; has it ever been seriously suggested that it might be fairer if the score were not to be reported? The change of practice at Exeter was passed through all the appropriate committees and decision-making bodies, whose papers are doubtless readily available. It is possible, however, that many academics, who may have other reading priorities, are unaware of the innovation and hence of its symbolic significance. Who will raise academic excellence if the universities do not?

A fresh face for Florence... Rooms with a view... would me I've past sport centre of cat 59

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A furious calm

MEDICAL BRIEFING

About 10 years ago the chief executive of one of Britain's leading financial institutions leapt from his seat at the boardroom table and punched one of his colleagues on the jaw with great ferocity. The flailing director was normally a studious, urbane man but since he had started to face domestic as well as commercial problems, his family doctor prescribed a benzodiazepine (the Librium, Valium, Normison group) as a tranquillizer. The doctor forgot that in some patients who are tense, suffer controlled aggression or are hyperactive by nature, the drug can cause a paradoxical reaction by suppressing their inhibitions. Anxious patients, for similar reasons, occasionally report an increase in anxiety, insomnia or nightmares. Short-acting benzodiazepines have been known to produce paranoia and changes in the senses of hearing, taste and smell - some of the many side effects reported recently in the *Adverse Drug Reaction Bulletin*. Despite these occasional ill effects the benzodiazepine group remains very useful in medicine and has a therapeutic role well beyond sedation or tranquillization. Thousands of epileptics owe their lives and the preservation of their intellect to the drug. Patients regularly given too high a dose may show excessive sedation, impaired motor performance, problems in balance and speech, double vision, poor memory and concentration. It is always difficult to decide whether a tense, anxious patient is addicted to the drug or to the relief of tension which it brings.

Can a lie detector tell lies?

The lie detector operates on the principle that an anxious person sweats imperceptibly when he or she tells a lie and this alters the conduction of electricity across the skin - the galvanic skin response. Its efficiency depends on the liar worrying about the lies. It does not work with somebody without conscience or a skilled liar. A report published in *Hospital Doctor* reviews work in this field by Dr John Beary of Georgetown University. He looked at 880 records which show that although the polygraph, as the lie detector is called, measures various physiological responses, including heart rate, blood pressure, respiration rate and the galvanic skin response while the patient is being questioned, the results are little better, in Dr Beary's view, than can be achieved by tossing a coin. The polygraph is 76 per cent sensitive and 60 per cent specific; in other words, the equipment which generated the results in this study was producing a 40 per cent false positive rate - which means that a lot of people could be wrongly labelled as lying.

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

Medical Briefing (June 20) mentioned research into passive smoking published in the July issue of the British Journal of Cancer. The research, carried out in collaboration with the Institute of Cancer Research, was funded by the Tobacco Research Council (now Tobacco Advisory Council).

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Humana Hospital Wellington FOR CARE IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN



THE TIMES DIARY

Claiming a stake

Jaunty genealogist Hugh Peskett of Winchester returned yesterday from a month-long mission to America with the Great Billion Dollar Humphreys Heir question nearer an answer. Pelham Humphreys, a Texan rancher, died in 1840 after a saloon bar shoot-out with no heirs - and the mystery of who should inherit remains unsolved to this day. It's more than academic interest since oil was found on his land early this century and royalties to date total around \$2 billion. Claims to the fortune have gathered and a recently-formed Humphreys Heir Association called in Peskett to trace other possible claimants. Yesterday, Peskett told me had traced at least 1,000 people with a good chance of winning a share and had "found a chink in the armour" of the oil giant Chevron, which claims to own all rights to the land. Anomalies in the original land deeds, he said, could undermine Chevron's case. The thousand Humphreys now appear heartened enough to take on Chevron in the courts, using lawyers tempted by a share of the fortune if they are successful.

On a visit to the Duchy of Cornwall last month Prince Charles was just about to start dinner when the fire alarms went off. A search quickly revealed the cause - a Bodmin detective constantly puffing his pipe beneath a smoke detector.

Expurgated

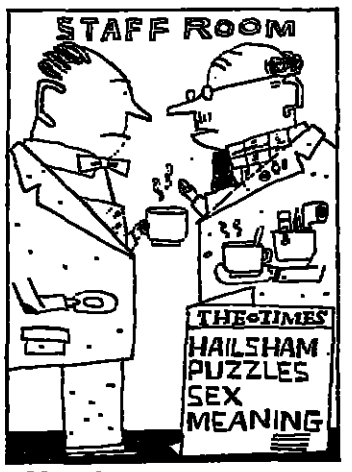
Buckingham Palace tells me that the psalm to be sung at the royal wedding later this month is Zion, the City of God. On the face of it, the news contradicts my story last month that, fearful of offending the Arab world, Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson had requested a psalm which made no mention of Israel. Further inquiries, however, reveal that only two verses will be sung - neither containing the words Zion, Israel or anything remotely contentious. What's more, the Archbishop of Canterbury, conducting the service, could choose to announce the psalm by its number, 48, instead of its title. I shall be listening carefully on the day.

The latest Punch carries a two-page ad for the Malaysian national airline. "We'll treat you like gold", it says. And pay close attention to your luggage, no doubt.

Busting out

Ambling round the Henley arts festival yesterday I was surprised to see the bronze Greek statues moving. Hadn't I seen something similar recently at the ICA in the Mall, where four men were sprayed in purple and grey paint, hung on a wall and called "living paintings"? Mark Eynon, Henley's artistic director, was quick to rebut any suggestion of stealing the idea: "Jean Cocteau painted his actors in the film Beauty and the Beast in the Forties." Apparently it all goes back to Louis XVI, who used to dress young boys as cherubs and paint them gold. And there was I thinking I had spotted whodunnit in The Draughtsman's Contract.

BARRY FANTONI



"Most of the Lower Third could tell him, unfortunately..."

Spot of bother

Lord Hailsham's dog, Spot, has disgraced himself. At a weekend bash to celebrate Lord Denham's 25 years as whip, held at Dorney Wood, one of the Foreign Secretary's official residences, Spot relieved himself over Lord Whitelaw's red dispatch box. I understand that while Lord Hailsham had no intention of letting the misfortune spoil his party, the leader of the House took a considerable time before seeing the funny side.

With the world awash with oil, BR offered the latest possible excuse the other day for terminating the 7 pm Kings Cross-Newcastle service at Leeds: "Not enough fuel"

Water sport

It seems the first law of journalism these days is, if at all possible, to get Richard Branson's name into every story. So here's mine. Some time ago, West Dorset Tory MP Jim Spicer told Colin Moynihan, the organizer of next week's MP's regatta, that he would be willing to water-ski down the Thames on the big day if a suitable wetsuit and power-boat were provided. Yesterday Moynihan came up with the goods. And so on Wednesday the 60-year-old Spicer, who has not skied for 20 years, will race from Lambeth Bridge to Westminster, pulled by Atlantic Challenger, alongside the Virgin magnate himself.

PHS

Radiating a false picture

by George Schöpflin

The Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev is working hard at showing an image of reasonableness to the West. All the marks of modernity are wheeled out in the presentation of what the Soviet Union does, and there is more than a hint that the Gorbachev style is intended to be understood as proof of the existence of a Westernised elite with which the West can deal. This hides the persistence of a degree of coarseness and brutality in the Soviet Union that no Western country can accept as reasonable.

Vivid evidence of this comes in a documentary, The Nuclear Gulag, to be shown on Channel 4 on Saturday. It shows pictures, some taken from Soviet television, some shot clandestinely at considerable risk, of the gulag as it is today. The image is not a pretty one. The unofficially shot film and the interviews with relatively recent survivors of the Soviet prison regime are both persuasive in shedding light on unknown aspects of the story.

The most remarkable part of the documentary deals with a highly sensitive and secret topic - uranium mining by prison labour. The Soviet system uses prisoners to mine uranium partly as a

deferred death sentence and partly because it is cheap. The human cost is not regarded as a cost. According to the evidence of a Protestant pastor, who has spent 18 months at two such mines, uranium mining is carried out with no regard to safety provision. There is no machinery to extract toxic gases and dust and no special clothing is provided.

The death rate is high. So is the suicide rate - many prisoners preferring suicide to slow radiation poisoning. Medical support is worse than useless. There is tentative evidence that instead of offering treatment, some medical personnel regard the prisoners as guinea pigs and observe the progress of radiation sickness instead.

The upshot is that the gulag is hardly changed from the death camps set up half a century ago. Brutality and appalling conditions are the norm. The guards appear to have an informal licence to kill prisoners. The prisoners are treated, as they have been for decades, merely as economic units from whom the maximum

amount of work is to be extracted and are then to be discarded.

The cynicism of the system is reflected in the way that regulations are applied. Failure to meet a heavy work quota, often in appalling conditions, such as having to dig soil frozen three feet deep with a spade, results in solitary confinement and starvation rations. This further undermines the prisoner's constitution and is, for all practical purposes, a death sentence. It is next to impossible to escape this vicious circle.

The punishment cells at Vladimir prison, east of Moscow, are specifically designed to break prisoners physically. They are too small to allow a man to lie down and are deliberately overheated or kept frozen. One former inmate describes how he was kept in such a cell for 15 days at 5 degrees C. After his warm clothing had been taken away, he shivered for the entire time he was there and afterwards had a stroke.

The medical staff are as much a part of the system as the guards. One doctor, to whom a prisoner appealed for help, declared, "First I am a Chekist, a KGB agent and

then I am a doctor". Brutality is not a monopoly of the guards. Some prisoners, common criminals, are permitted to kill politicians who come to be regarded as "awkward".

The documentary also produces evidence that the total number of executions in the Soviet Union is far higher than the official figure of about 30 a year. The real figure, calculated on the basis of confidential information from Soviet district courts and appeal courts, is between 865 and 895. Gorbachev's campaign against "speculators", who can face the death penalty, could well raise this to an even higher level.

There is something to be said for the argument that any society can be judged by how it treats its prisoners. The emphasis is not on spectacular achievements but on the dark side, where state control is complete. The individual imprisoned is entirely at the mercy of the system, and the system is allowed its fullest expression. By this yardstick, the Soviet Union has a long way to go before it can be seriously regarded as Westernised.

The author lectures in Communist politics at the London School of Economics.

F.A. Mann puts the case against a combined legal profession

Brief for a separate Bar

By courtesy of Punch



THE LAST SELL

"Oh sir, please sir, is this Chancery Lane!" "It is." "Ah! I knowed it was!" "Then why did you ask?" "Cos I wanted to have counsel's opinion!"

A logical systematic submission is impossible. Nor is there such ineffectual cross-examination as is usual in the US (on the Continent witnesses are primarily interrogated by the court, cross-examination being unknown). Thirdly, in this country's civil proceedings the judge who starts a case is in principle unacquainted with it. The case has to be explained to him, but his mind is not made up before the end of the hearing. (This point, incidentally, gives strong support to the adversarial system of advocacy which has recently been unfavourably compared to the inquisitorial one: a judge who knows the papers and acts as inquisitor has inevitably formed a view and no longer has an open mind.)

Fourthly, most laymen will be surprised to learn that the English legal system does not require judges to know the law. Rather the law is submitted to them - and what has not been submitted does not form the basis of decision. It is true that a judge may draw attention to this or that point, to a decision, to academic writing. He may even in exceptional circumstances make suggestions. But the burden of finding and explaining the law and suggesting its application to the case in hand is cast upon the advocates. This is wholly different on the Continent where the law is found by the court (jura novit curia, as the old Latin maxim puts it).

Fifthly, if you add up all persons exercising full-time judicial functions in England and Wales, you are unlikely to reach a higher figure than about 2,000. In Germany there are 15,000 judges. In France the 120 judges of the Court

of Appeal for the Paris region alone are supposed to deal with no fewer than 36,000 appeals a year. The Cour de Cassation, France's highest tribunal, has 18,000 appeals a year. In England the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, has about 1,500, though the Criminal Division has about 8,000, and the House of Lords hears around 80 cases a year. In the United States judges have "clerks", i.e. assistants who prepare and frequently write judgments which their masters often merely adopt and which a qualified observer can easily recognize as the work of a beginner.

The wholly different English conditions are due to many reasons, expense being a regrettable, but by no means principal one. The principal one is the process of sifting upon which a highly experienced Bar embarks, upon which much of its reputation depends and which keeps litigation within moderate bounds. There is no such attitude as the Continental lawyer's advice: "Let us issue a writ and see what happens. The court will tell us." Consequently the Continental judge sits once or twice a week in court and during the remaining time studies papers, researches the law, confers with his colleagues and writes judgments. The English judge sits every day and writes judgments in his so-called spare time. They are his personal responsibility and it is his name which becomes history. It is not the anonymity of the 13th Chamber of the District Court in Hamburg, or the 25th Chamber of the Court of Appeal in Paris, which protects his errors, misunderstandings or failings.

It is against this background that any proposal to change the legal profession must be viewed. Can the system be maintained if solicitors acquire the right of audience in higher courts? If not, what is going to take its place? And will it provide quicker and less expensive, but equally efficient and impartial justice?

The present system is unlikely to continue if solicitors obtain the right of audience in higher courts. The number of solicitors at present who are able to submit and argue a case, to expose the facts and examine and cross-examine witnesses is a tiny proportion of the total of almost 50,000 in practice. So the solicitor's right of audience will lead to a multiplicity of judges. The judges will have to do their own research and there will not be that sifting process which long and varied experience, specialist knowledge, familiarity with prevailing practices, judicial reactions and personalities provides.

That will lead to the American or Continental systems - in particular to interrupted hearings and a larger number of appeals - and in all probability to largely written proceedings, because the advocate-solicitor, whose experience is necessarily limited, simply cannot afford the time to sit in court for long and will rarely be able or willing to deal with the facts and the law. No "litigation solicitor" can do all the preparatory work and be regularly in court. He needs the help which the barrister now receives from the solicitor. But look at the Law Reports and ask yourself how many will be able to present and argue the cases there reported. If the reforming solicitors reply that in these cases they would employ members of a residuary Bar (if it survived) they overlook the problem of how the latter could, under a different system, acquire the peculiar qualifications which bar members are becoming aware of. They must be given the opportunity of starting with the simple case and progressing over a period of years. But if the simple cases are done by solicitor-advocates, where can barristers learn?

This is not to say that countries with a different legal system do not achieve a wholly satisfactory standard of justice. Nor is it to say that it would not be possible to devise a different system in England which would work satisfactorily. Nor should one carefully considered reforms be a priori excluded, though it would be ironic if we adopted the largely written American procedure at the very time when many American lawyers are becoming aware of the disadvantages of their procedure and the attractions of the English one.

The point of these remarks is that you cannot to any substantial extent tinker with the present legal system without jeopardizing it, and that if you wish to introduce fusion or something approaching it you must start by remodelling the present legal system as a whole, adapting it to conditions which would be fundamentally different from that at present.

The author is a solicitor in the City of London and a fellow of the British Academy.

Confronting the cure to drug addiction

Britain's most currently celebrated drug addict, Boy George O'Dowd, now reportedly languishes in Britain's most currently celebrated drug clinic, St Andrew's Private Hospital in Northampton, might care to ponder the words of Dr Maurice Lipsedge, consultant psychiatrist in the department of Psychological Medicine at Guy's Hospital.

"You cannot cure a drug addict with another drug", Lipsedge says. "Addicts are best helped by confrontation, by being encouraged to face reality and by having their self-deception challenged. The answer to the problem lies ultimately in the personality of the addict."

Lipsedge has written the foreword to a book about addiction and its cure by an American psychologist, Jim Ditzler, and his wife Joyce, who run a private

drug clinic in Surrey. The Ditzlers promote a treatment which is itself drug-free. Their programme emphasizes counselling and psychotherapy, and tries to make the addict face the consequences of his addiction, with the help of his family and former addicts.

"Far too many NHS clinics still prescribe substitute drugs to help addicts give up heroin, for example," Lipsedge says. "It's like trying to cure an alcoholic by giving him vodka instead of gin. It only encourages addicts to go on feeling there is a chemical solution to their problems. The NHS needs to turn its back on chemical solutions and have a fundamental rethink."

Lipsedge is particularly scathing about the continued prescribing of methadone, the heroin substitute long thought to be the "answer" to heroin addiction because its use

made heroin withdrawal symptoms more bearable.

"People sell their methadone and buy heroin", Lipsedge says, "or they become methadone addicts. Now an attempt is being made to popularize another substitute drug, naltraxone. It is said to block the effects of heroin: if you take both it and heroin, you don't feel good. It may or may not be helpful with heroin, but it does nothing for polydrug abuse. The vast majority of drug users in this country take more than one drug, from cocaine to tranquilizers to anything they can get."

The Ditzlers claim a success rate of more than 50 per cent, which is considered remarkable. Their programme bears many similarities to that of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Lipsedge is convinced that this approach is the only one which offers real hope of a cure.

Boy George, it is reported, is being treated with Dr Meg Patterson's "little black box", in which electrodes strapped to the head send impulses into the brain. Lipsedge is unwilling to comment publicly on another doctor's methods but, speaking of "alternative" approaches in general, he says: "I do not think paramedical treatments, such as hypnosis or aversion therapy, have any real value."

The drawback with the Ditzler method is that the addict has to pay for it. "It is unfortunate that this approach is not more widely available through the NHS", Lipsedge says. "The realization is slowly dawning that this is the only way to cure drug addiction, which is now an epidemic, but the resources are just not there."

Michael McCarthy "Coming Off Drugs" (Papermac, £5.95)

Graham Mather

Wanted: social signallers

Ministers are rightly concerned about a public tendency to take their achievements for granted. Conservative economics may have spread to socialist France, Australia and throughout the OECD, but clear new selling points must be identified in social policy areas broadly untouched since 1979.

Sadly, little attention has been devoted to the outcome of ideas. There has been minimal analysis even of the two chief and unexpected successes of Thatcherite policy innovation: privatization and legal reform of the trades unions. Nationalized industries, in the 1979 scheme of things, underperformed because they were badly managed and were subject to government interference. Left at arm's length, their managers would be able to manage and all would be well. It took two years of increasing losses and subsidization before the potential of privatization as a revenue raiser, a check on unquantifiable future public spending and, ultimately, as a route to wider individual ownership, was fully appreciated.

Equally, for two years James Prior, as Employment Secretary, strove to confine trade union law reform to the modest picketing code of practice and slight refinement of the scope of secondary picketing contained in his Act of 1980. Only an unprecedented alliance of the Prime Minister, employers, policy organizations, backbenchers and peers led ultimately to the critical change - the reintegration of trades unions within the ordinary law.

There were plenty of other options. The managerial approach originally favoured for nationalized industries has subsequently been followed in the National Health Service. It has proved that a resource allocation working party can be no substitute for the individual consumer choice.

The managerial approach has been tried, too, in the unemployment benefit system, where a Rayner review suggested that it would be more cost effective not to require benefit claimants to register for work. The mistake undoubtedly added tens of thousands to the unemployment figure; it is now being expensively unscrambled.

The very modest achievements of Raynerism across central government, and the current difficulties of the managerial approach in the NHS, reveal the limitations of approaches based on the more efficient administration of socialized systems.

The two Thatcher successes were successes precisely because they cut free from administrative tinkering to refashion the structures of choice and ownership. They followed a simple political equation: signals + interests + machinery = policy success.

It seems obvious to suggest that reforming policies will not grip if the signals seen by voters suggest that there is no problem which

necessitates reform, or that increased state diversion and re-allocation of resources is the only solution.

If signals tell voters that, for example, it pays to vote for high-spending local councils because business and a handful of rate-payers will pick up the bill, a surprisingly large number of voters will vote for high-spending and free services. Mrs Thatcher has picked up that challenge: by broadening the base of those who perceive signals of excessive spending and whose interests tell them to do something about it, through the proposed community charge.

As for interests, it is a Tory mistake to assume that an appeal to individual interests will generate a socialistic response, and that only in the name of austerity will policies that abjure prodigal public spending prevail. The unexpected lesson of privatization and trades union reform is that Mrs Thatcher needs to build a base of new real interests in support of social policy solutions, to replicate the new interests on which her economic policy achievements have been built. They would replace a national, generalized stake in systems founded on doubtful accounting, retrospective financing, and invisible and incomprehensible redistribution of incomes, kept in some sort of spending check by arbitrary and politically damaging cash limits.

But it is clear that in the present health, welfare and education systems, the perceived signals and interests of millions of voters say vote against Mrs Thatcher.

Privatization relied heavily on the contribution of outside think tanks and the work of special advisers in the Treasury, itself a department unusually well equipped with officials capable of being redeployed to major, cross-department policy innovation. Trades union reform had to be "privatized" to the extent that the Department of Employment played scarcely a part in the development of policy which led to the 1982 Employment Act. Today the policy support systems available to ministers are desperately weak. The Central Policy Review Staff has been disbanded. Special advisers are few in number and tied to the transitory appointments of individual ministers. Labour, Liberals and SDP are all setting up ministerial cabinets to speed implementation of new policy should they be in power.

The scale of the social policy problems facing Mrs Thatcher are large enough to make it highly unlikely that solutions can emerge by chance, accident or good fortune. By refashioning the signals received by voters and tying their legitimate interests and expectations to an effective mechanism that would deliver the answers, the successes of 1979-83 could be repeated.

The author is head of the policy unit, Institute of Directors.

Henry Stanhope

Namesmanship for beginners

An American academic, writing in the New York Times the other day, complained about being called "Jill". It was her name all right, but what riled her was that the junior bank clerk who used it had not previously known her from Adam - or, in her case, Eve.

The lady should try living over here. In the US they might use first names more often, but at least they do so easily, as if they mean it. "Hiya, er, Henry", says the president of Ford or Lockheed, or Kentucky Fried Chicken, advancing like a great friendly bear with outstretched paw. "Call me Jim".

In Britain, first names are all part of the class structure, like accents and schools. A delegate at the annual conference of the TUC could even score a point or two by referring to the general secretary as "Norman". But not so a member of the House of Laity who, in the middle of the General Synod, called the Archbishop of Canterbury "Bob".

An elderly aunt, addressed by her first name recently by a new young doctor less than half her age, snapped back in true Lady Bracknell style: "And where does this 'Dorothy' come from, pray?" The hapless medic, missing the point, picked up her card. "From here", he said brightly. "On your card. It's your name."

He was, might one argue, just trying to be nice. Not a bit of it. He was establishing - or trying to - an updated version of the master-servant relationship between, say, Bertie Wooster who was called "sir" and Jeeves, who was always called "Jeeves". If he had said: "My name's Keith", he might have been excused. But he would no more have dreamed of doing that than the Master in Upstairs Downstairs would have considered joining his butler Hudson for a pint in the local pub. The doctor expected to be called "Doctor".

The point about using someone's first name is that it should at least be mutual. You might not particularly like being called "Fred" by someone who until five minutes before was a total stranger, but at least, if he says "I'm Arthur" you can feel on equal terms. Nurses can just about get away with it, because although they often tend now to use first

names, they don't mind patients doing the same. (A patient lying in bed, muffled in bandages like a Punch cartoon, is hardly in a position to complain anyway.) Still less able to protest is the young subaltern who is addressed as "Simon" or whatever by the general. This is not an invitation to be on intimate terms with the divisional commander. It's merely the top man's way of showing friendship to the lower orders. The Army has to some extent got round this by referring to senior officers as the third person, any way, by their christian name preface by their rank. Thus General Sir Nigel Bagnall, the present Chief of the General Staff, might be known to his subordinates as "General Nigel" - though face-to-face only as "General", "CGS", or "Sir".

The Army is of course a hierarchical as Fleet Street is not. Even there, the occasional reporter will stoop to addressing his interviewee as "Sir" in his anxiety to win favour on a story, like a spaniel begging for a biscuit. But it's a bad and debasing principle.

People who use one's first name without dreaming for one moment that the familiarity might be reciprocated are like those who speak loudly in favour of preserving regional accents when they don't have one themselves.

It is hard to recall Professor Higgins being played by anyone with a less than Rex Harrison accent. Henry Higgins was a toff, who called Miss Doolittle "Eliza" and studied her tonal cadences, but would have been outraged had she turned round and called him "Henry" in return. "Guv", "Prof", "Ducks", or any other Cockney endearment might have been permissible. Higgins called Pickering "Pickering" - but not as a master commanding a member of the lower orders, rather as one clubman greeting another, years after prep school together. The difference again was that Pickering called him "Higgins" in return.

So next time our American friend snaps, "Call me Madam", let her spare a thought for us. Life's much more complicated here.

THE CO... MR ARAF... DR SA... simple prudence to ev... conclusions of... which only the first... has been released... however, Dr... suspended from... for alleged incom... secured a indica... from the inquiry... more than words... to break so... alignment... the beds of disenchan...



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THE CONFIDENCE FACTOR

The nervousness exhibited by financial markets this week is part of a wider concern. Six months have passed since the collapse of oil prices. But the expected post-oil boom for the world economy has still to show. Falling share prices may be no more than an expression of impatience, of hopes deferred. The danger is of a temporary loss of financial market confidence extending outwards into the real economy. To become self-fulfilling. When share prices on Wall Street began to fall on Monday, three factors could be detected. The Gramm-Rudman plan for reducing the United States federal budget deficit had been declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court. There was increasing evidence of economic weakness, which would be exacerbated by the interest rate consequences of a failure to cut the budget deficit. And, perhaps most importantly, Wall Street, in common with stock markets around the world, had experienced a very strong rise and was due for a correction. In London, with the exception of the special factor of the budget deficit, the same concerns were present. Share prices, until very recently, were marked up in anticipation of the economic recovery that was to have been associated with the new cheap oil era. Government bonds moved sharply higher in the expectation of lower interest rates that were to have accompanied the major fall in world inflation. But in neither case, so far, has expectation matched reality. When oil prices fell from \$30 to \$10 a barrel last winter, a fall which may not yet have come to an end, the consequences were quickly foreseen in lower world inflation and stronger growth. The infla-

tion effects could be expected almost immediately but growth, it was recognised, would take a little longer. And so it has been. Figures to be published today will show that the inflation rate in Britain has fallen to about 2.5 per cent, the lowest for nearly 20 years. In other countries, notably Germany, the price level is falling. Central banks have not, however, responded to declining inflation with a corresponding reduction in interest rates, confounding the expectations of the bond markets. The inflation spectre of the past 15 years looms large enough to persuade policy-makers not to take risks. Cheap oil should mean permanent low inflation, it is argued, and not just a temporary dip in the inflation rate. The impatience of financial markets, on one level, has good cause. Base rates in Britain of 10 per cent imply a punishingly high real interest rate when taken in conjunction with inflation of 2.5 per cent. In Germany, interest rates of 4 or 5 per cent sit uneasily alongside sub-zero inflation. In the United States, the Federal Reserve Board has been fighting a determined battle, which it appears destined to lose, to keep interest rates high. It would be wrong, however, to view the pause in economic growth which has occurred since the winter as due to excessively tight monetary policy. The balance of the evidence, in fact, is tipped in favour of the view that monetary policy has been rather loose. It is important to remember that the mechanism for the boost to growth from lower oil prices could not operate instantaneously. The initial effects of lower oil prices was to cut off export markets in the

oil-producing nations. Thus, both Germany and Japan, because of reduced export volumes, experienced a decline in gross national product in the first quarter of this year. In Britain, the drop in North Sea profits and investment added to these effects. A secondary pause, as people made sure that the marked fall in oil prices was not followed by an equally sharp rise, was also inevitable. But that too is now over. The economy, both here and overseas, is now poised for, to use the Chancellor's phrase, a vigorous resumption of growth. But growth requires confidence among the people who make the real decisions - the businessmen who invest and the consumers who spend. A spreading of the loss of confidence which affected financial markets particularly badly earlier this week could mean that the growth opportunity is missed. There are indications that, where employment decisions are concerned, businessmen require a sort of super-confidence. Successive surveys, from the Confederation of British Industry, the Occupations Study Group and, this week, from the Institute for Employment Research, suggest that British employers are not sufficiently optimistic about long-term economic prospects, or their own ability to win back market share, to expand employment significantly. Such confidence could as well emerge from a tempering of wage demands, as Government and CBI participants at this week's National Economic Development Council meeting agreed. But it is needed if the chances of more robust growth now are to be translated into lower unemployment in the coming months.

MR ARAFAT LOSES MORE FRIENDS

The Jordanian government's action in closing the Palestine Liberation Organization's offices in Jordan - all 25 of them - is the latest sign of a sea-change in Arab alignments. Its significance is both practical and emotional, and its implications go far beyond the borders of the Arab world. Once upon a time the Palestine Liberation Organization was regarded as the doyen of radical terrorist organizations. Its training camps were the destination of every aspiring terrorist. Its fingerprints were detected, rightly or wrongly, on the discarded pin of every terrorist grenade. Its leader, Yasser Arafat, was invited to address the United Nations. Today, the PLO is a shadow of its former self. Its leadership is divided, several times over. Arafat is no longer the uncontested focus of Arab unanimity. Now, with the loss of its base in Jordan - the country many Arabs see as the closest the Palestinians will come to having a homeland - the PLO has lost its last legitimate foothold in the area. The immediate motive for Jordan's break with the PLO, or rather with that part of it led by Yasser Arafat, was the PLO's condemnation of Jordan's alleged support for a rival PLO faction. But it would have taken more than words spoken in anger to break so long-standing an alignment. In fact, the seeds of disenchant-

ment were sown when Arafat thwarted King Husain's initiative on the Israeli-occupied West Bank earlier this year. From then on the fortunes of Arafat's PLO, which had started to recover from the humiliation in Beirut four years ago, have been in decline. The brutal truth is that while the Middle East situation has moved on since Arafat's heyday, the Palestine Liberation Organization under his tutelage has not. Rejectionism may be going out of fashion among Arab states, but Arafat still insists that he cannot deal, even indirectly, with Israel. He still insists on nothing less than an independent Palestinian homeland. But the PLO's territorial position is weaker than it has been for years. It is now effectively banished to Tunisia, far from its traditional theatre of operations. Moreover, Jordan is only the latest of the Arab countries to have decided that the PLO, at least so long as Arafat remains leader, no longer represents a force for Arab unity. Syria has recognized exactly that in Lebanon, where it has risked military intervention to prevent the PLO's return. Saudi Arabia appears open to suggestions that its financial support for Arafat might be scaled down. And Egypt, once the pariah of the Arab world for signing the Camp David agreement, is

being tentatively welcomed back into the fold. Last week, the Egyptian paper *Al-Ahram* published an interview with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, its first for many years. A new, superficially more amenable Arab grouping appears to be in the making, with the recently established Syrian-Jordanian axis at its centre. It is united by a pragmatic reluctance to underwrite Arafat's intransigence over a Palestinian homeland and a new-found (post-Libya?) abhorrence of his methods. For the first time since Camp David, there is the distant prospect of an Arab consensus: this time against, rather than for, Arafat. The likely consequences of this embryonic realignment are far-reaching and generally welcome - though the Middle East repeatedly confounds optimistic predictions. In the long term, they could include a more comfortable, if hardly secure, existence for Israel within its existing borders, and the eventual reunification of the Palestinians around a more flexible PLO leadership. In the short-term, however, Arafat and his men are likely to resort to more desperate measures as they try to restore their image and maintain a presence nearer to their national homeland. Yesterday's attempt to land fighters in Lebanon could be only the beginning of a long and bitter campaign.

DR SAVAGE VINDICATED

It is simple prudence to exercise caution in commenting upon the conclusions of a report of which only the first instalment has been released. On the face of it, however, Dr Wendy Savage, the consultant obstetrician suspended from the London Hospital for 15 months for alleged incompetence, has secured a vindication from the inquiry established by Tower Hamlets health authority. The ostensible basis for alleging incompetence was five deliveries under Dr Savage's care. These were five cases over a period in which Dr Savage presided over several hundred deliveries. A verdict of general incompetence would require evidence of a more general failure of clinical judgement than that suggested by even the gloomiest interpretation of the five cases. As it happens, however, the inquiry concluded that the five cases in question revealed no consistent aberration of clinical judgement: that Dr Savage's patients were not exposed to unjustifiable risks,

and that her criteria for safe practice are reasonable. Why, then, did some of her senior colleagues take the opposite point of view? They apparently differed with her on the general need for caesarean sections. But it was a matter of opinion rather than practice. Eight per cent of the deliveries under her care were carried out by caesarean section compared to 12 per cent in the London hospital as a whole and 10 per cent nationwide. That is not a dramatic disparity. But Dr Savage expresses her views on the superiority of natural childbirth very vigorously. As a result, her colleagues may well have exaggerated her commitment to it and believed, in the words of the report, "that Mrs. Savage rejected Caesarean sections regardless of the interests of the patients." That could account for what the report describes as an "undercurrent of opposition" to her which, while it fell short of the conspiracy alleged by her supporters, may nonetheless have distorted their judgement

of her clinical standards and practices. That is not to say that Dr Savage emerges without criticism from the report. She herself admitted errors in her handling of the five cases. And her deary in ordering a caesarean in the case of the baby AU receives the serious censure that it caused risks to both baby and mother and came "near the bounds of acceptable practice" - though it was quite unconnected with the baby's subsequent death. More severe judgements may lurk in the second instalment. But the wider value of the report, and of the public inquiry which led up to it, is that it has exposed the differences of clinical opinion on childbirth practices. It has therefore strengthened the view that potential mothers should be given the information that would enable them to choose between the different approaches of different medical experts. When the experts differ, they can not expect us to grant them *carte blanche*.

Drug offence and death penalty

From Ms Joe Parham
Sir, Your leader today (July 8) "Drugs and the gallows", is so astonishing that I must take issue with you, even though Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers are already dead. Attempts to point out to the Malaysian Pardons Board that justice was not being done were not "patronising implications about the quality of justice in Malaysia". They were made in the knowledge that at least one of the convictions was unsafe. No one in his or her right mind approves of heroin smuggling. No society in its right mind approves of capital punishment. Yesterday's execution is, in the words of Kevin Barlow's lawyer, Mr Karpal Singh, a scandal which has brought shame to Malaysia. If, as the Malaysian authorities defensively reiterate, Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers were subject to exactly the same judicial process as that enjoyed by Malaysians, then all I can say is God help the Malaysians. Yours faithfully, JOE PARHAM, National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad, 347a Upper Street, N1, July 8.

If that be so, many young lives which otherwise might be ruined by these cruelly lethal drugs may well be saved by the Malaysians carrying through these executions, in the teeth of outraged liberal opinion. The Times is therefore right to advise those Western governments who seek to stamp out the menace of drugs to be chary about condemning the legal processes of a respected Commonwealth partner whose people are severely afflicted by hard drug addiction. Yours, ELDON GRIFFITHS, House of Commons. From Professor Brice Pitt
Sir, Referring to the execution of Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers, your editorial remarks that "misgivings about the severity of the sentence ... must be swallowed". The appalling anguish inflicted on these men during a period of 2 1/2 years, during which they must have endured agonies of suspense and the possibility of a reprieve, and the haste with which they were finally despatched while the constitution of the pardons board in Penang was being challenged, show a ruthless inhumanity which far transcends even the hypothetical consequences of their serious crime. I find, Sir, that my misgivings choke me. Yours faithfully, BRICE PITT, 8 Palmers Hill, Epping, Essex, July 8.

Doubts on basis of UGC ratings

From Professor Michael Zander
Sir, Our law department was one of those favoured by a star as "outstanding" in the recently published UGC ratings for research. It may seem surprising as well as churlish, therefore, that I am writing to suggest that the exercise must be deemed to be wholly lacking in intellectual credibility. The UGC's research into the relative merits of research in law departments seems to have been based largely on the reading of the very brief (two-to-three page) reports which we were asked to submit. Inevitably such self-serving statements emphasise strengths and minimise shortcomings. At the end of our report we were requested to specify five titles of books or articles published since 1980 which were "typical of the best of the research in the department". Considering that during the period members of an ordinary sized department would have published dozens of books and hundreds of articles, a sample of five seems so small as to be completely arbitrary and unrepresentative. But the weakness of this method of proceeding is considerably compounded since it has been learnt that those responsible for making the assessments for the UGC did not have the time to read the works listed. If they were not to read, why were we asked to list only five titles? For that matter, if they were not to read, why were we asked for any titles at all? Accountability of university departments and scrutiny of what they do in the research field seems both legitimate and potentially valuable. But if it is to be done, let it be done properly, and after consultations with the academic community. That the reputation of institutions should be made or even more, marred by the results of such spurious "peer review" is a public scandal. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL ZANDER, The London School of Economics and Political Science, Law Department, Houghton Street, WC2, July 7.

ON THIS DAY

JULY 11 1834
This leading article epitomises the vigour - often brutal - of The Times under the editorship of Lord Althorp. It is a fact that his leadership has since been written by him. Melbourne succeeded Grey, but resigned in November and the opposition (Tory) party formed a government; Peel became prime minister, but not before Barrow had laid down the conditions under which he would support the new ministry. The following Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst to exclaim, "Why Barrow is the most powerful man in the country".

BARNES DEMANDS A NEW CABINET

In our article yesterday upon the embarrassing condition of the Government, we took the opportunity of referring to a statement of the LORD CHANCELLOR, which we noted that his Lordship has since repeated, to the effect that the only resignations of office which had yet taken place were those of Lord GREY and Lord ALTHORP; the obvious conclusion from which, as indeed it was put forth distinctly by Lord BROUGHAM, must be that minus only the late Premier and the late CHANCELLOR of the EX-CHEQUER, the Government was still perfect in all its parts, while the tacit conclusion rather left to be drawn by others than directly announced by the noble and learned Lord himself, was, that with the simple substitution of another chief, and another leader of the House of Commons, the same Cabinet might do very well as it stood (or stand), and this disturbance be settled without further difficulty and without any evil consequences. ... Such being the fact, our comment is, that we are most deeply mortified, grieved, and alarmed, to hear it. Considering the circumstances under which the Cabinet which reckoned Lords GREY and ALTHORP among its members, has for some time past attempted to struggle, and in the midst of which these noble lords resigned, nothing is more obvious than that a clean sweep of the whole Administration has become absolutely indispensable. The rubbish must be wheeled away to the last barrowful before any sure foundation can be laid for a new building. Good God! are we to have another downright fraud passed upon the rightful expectations of the country? Are we to have putty and whitewash laid over "lath and plaster", and then told that such an edifice will stand the hurricane of time like these? ... What, after the retreat of Mr. STANLEY and the rest, the last attempt at reconstruction out of the old unsound materials was condemned and scorned as a piece of miserable drivelling, how much worse would the case be now, when Lords GREY and ALTHORP are to be added to the losses of the same Administration? ... We have said that any new Cabinet, framed for public esteem and confidence, must be at least as liberal as Lord GREY's. We recall the expression - it may be more liberally - and by itself effectually of that more than half-Tory section which has for these two sessions of Parliament paralyzed and disabled the best efforts of its more patriotic and enlightened colleagues. Lord LANSDOWNE, bolstered up as he was in youth by a system of sedulous preceptorship - by the anticipations of those herds of flatterers who besieged the noble Lord's father - the political MARCEAS of some certain circles - and by the favour and countenance of Mr. Fox - Lord LANSDOWNE, we say - and we do so in the discharge of a stern duty to our countrymen - Lord LANSDOWNE is a total failure. He is not a bold, determined, or strenuous statesman. He has no sympathies with the spirit of manly and resolute reform. He has headed the Conservatives throughout, and through his influence in a quarter which shall be nameless, he it was who satisfied upon the country's personage of whose merits the noble Marquis has formed a judgement which is the admiration of all lookers-on - to wit, the wise Lord AUCKLAND! Yet there are dolts who would actually obtrude Lord LANSDOWNE (of all men living!) for Prime Minister after Lord GREY, whose very weaknesses are more estimable than the other's strengths, exhibiting, as they do, a high mind and a generous spirit. Lord LANSDOWNE's own promotion to the rank of Premier might be of a piece with the scheme of a "Coalition Cabinet," which we have for many months known to be a favourite chimera of the Court. ... Two of our contemporaries - one a morning, the other an evening paper - are pushing the claims of as many individuals to high consideration as candidates for prominent office. The Morning Chronicle takes Lord DURHAM, for whom we have often declared our own goodwill, as a liberal statesman. The Courier will have it that Lord ALTHORP ought to be Prime Minister. ...

Medical exchange

From Professor J. W. Boag
Sir, In your correspondent's report (June 21) of our medical exchange visit to the Soviet Union there is one point I should like to correct. Our group of doctors made no request to visit Hospital No 6 where the Chernobyl patients are being cared for, as none of us had the special expertise to offer advice or assistance, which would have been the only justification for requesting such a visit. Our itinerary had been planned long before the Chernobyl disaster and we were welcomed in all those hospitals and institutes - in Moscow, Leningrad and Yaroslavl - to which we had requested access etc. Yours etc, J. W. BOAG, Flat 1, 40 Overton Road, Sutton, Surrey, July 5.

Academic salaries

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Education and Science
Sir, Sir Edward Parkes's letter of July 9 may have misled some of your readers. Far from reneging on earlier promises, my letter of July 4 to the Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals specifically stated: We shall of course honour Keith Joseph's undertaking to give the universities no less favourable treatment than the hospital and community health services. Sir Edward is right in saying that the universities have not yet received extra funds. That is because we have not yet determined the amount of additional grant to be paid. It will depend on the levels of the pay settlements yet to be reached for clinical and non-clinical academic staff. We stand ready to sign a cheque once the size of the bill is established. Yours sincerely, GEORGE WALDEN, Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, SE1, July 9.

Boarding for all

From Professor John A. Davis
Sir, One side-effect of the cost of a public school education is that it leads middle-class families to strive for higher incomes than they would otherwise need, thus making them anxious to preserve an income differential based on class and not necessarily related to social usefulness. Could I suggest that the solution might be not to abolish such schools out of hand, with their fine record and traditions, but to turn them into sixth form boarding colleges, as was done at Dartmouth many years ago? Thirteen years is, in my view, too young an age for boarding but by sixteen many if not most adolescents, having found their own values, could do with the experience of a structured educational environment away from

Neglect at Wareham

From Mr T. J. Driver
Sir, The letter from Mr G. H. Osborn (June 21) overlooks the fact that, as a monument in an urban area, the Wareham town walls are much used for various recreational purposes which means sadly that in places erosion has occurred and is probably inevitable, as is litter. This and the need to ensure that routine grass-cutting etc strikes a balance between preserving the monument and keeping it tidy, and nature-conservation aspects, means that maintenance in the short and long term is more costly than for other monuments. It is therefore by far the most expensive area of open space that Purbeck District Council has to maintain at a time when local

US aid to Contras

From Mrs Faith Tolkien
Sir, The ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague that US aid to the anti-Sandinista Contras in Nicaragua is in violation of international law and that the US is liable to pay reparation to Nicaragua for damage already done must not go unremarked. The US rejection of the court's authority in 1984 when the case was brought is now reaffirmed by the sending of \$100 million in aid to the Contras. The consequences of this are obviously appalling for Nicaragua: the war will escalate and the people's deprivation and sufferings will multiply. But the implications are far wider and even those who are quite uninterested in the fate of Nicaragua should pay attention. Freedom and liberty, as extolled in the celebrations around the lady's statue, have no substance if law is broken and "might is right". Civilisation depends on respect for this fragile value: each time it is broken - like the shattering of the beautiful conch in *The Lord of the Flies* - we are all endangered by the barbarism that breaks it. Yours faithfully, FAITH TOLKIEN, 28 Church Street, Wallington, Oxford, July 3.

Cricket decline

From the Headmaster of Westminster City School and others
Sir, Mr Matthews (July 4) is correct in saying that there is a general decline in the number of schools willing to play matches out of school time (even taking into account teachers' industrial action); and that the standard of ILEA wickets generally, although there are notable exceptions, is so low that pupils have difficulty in learning the fundamentals of the game. Banning and fielding are often a lottery and bowlers take wickets they don't deserve. A further observation we would make is that little time is given to cricket at primary schools; this

Open to view

From Lord Kilbracken
Sir, It appears not to have occurred to Mr Roger Musgrave (July 7) that the way he "pushed through the cosmopolitan crowd" and presented his purchases "without saying a word" may have been precisely what gave away his race. Yours faithfully, JOHN KILBRACKEN, House of Lords.

The wrong laurel

From Mr R. J. Kenyon
Sir, It is to be hoped that "do-it-yourself" cooking enthusiasts do not kill themselves and their guests by using the recipe for *aijo bouido* given in Mr Peter Brown's travel article (July 5, page 10). An infusion containing laurel leaves would be poisonous indeed. What the French and Spanish refer to as laurel is known as "bay" in English. Yours faithfully, ROBERT JAMES KENYON, Seychelles Farm, Oak Hill, Abbotkerswell, Nr Newton Abbot, South Devon, July 5.

Filtering through

From Mr A. R. F. Carter
Sir, It was not till just lately that it finally hit me that we are indeed part of a Common Market. Last week I purchased a new air filter for my French-made "British" car; the filter was marketed under a German brand name, and manufactured in Spain. A less humorous postscript is that for some 12 weeks the same filter type had been on order from a British company. Finally, in desperation the dealer ordered the identical part from a German company, who delivered it in two days. Yours faithfully, RICHARD CARTER, 49 Lansdown Road, Sittingbourne, Kent.

Cricketers received an award

school watched proudly as our cricketers received an award from the sponsors of the County Championship. We had been voted Hampshire's outstanding cricketer school. Later, over a coffee in my study, Rajesh Maru, Hampshire's left-arm spinner, asked our dedicated cricket master, "Where do you practise?" "On the playground; we don't have a pitch", came the reply. Perhaps there is a moral somewhere. Yours faithfully, R. A. BRENT, Headmaster, Bellemoor School, Bellemoor Road, Shirley, Southampton.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
July 10: Mr Roger Westbrook was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as British High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam.

Mr R. J. O'Neill was received in audience by the Queen and kissed hands upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Vienna.

Mr T. J. Clark (Her Majesty's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at Baghdad) and Mrs Clark had the honour of being received by the Queen.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh gave an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince and Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips and Captain Mark Phillips, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeoman of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of the Scots Guards, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's) played selections of music during the afternoon.

The Queen, attended by the Right Hon Nicholas Edwards, MP, Secretary of State for Wales; Minister-in-Attendance, Mrs John Dugdale, the Right Hon Sir William Heselgrave and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson, left Euston Station in the Royal Train this evening for Wales.

The Prince Andrew, accompanied by Miss Sarah Ferguson, viewed an exhibition of His Royal Highness's photographs at the Royal Albert Hall today.

Wing Commander Adam Wise was in attendance. By command of the Queen, the Viscount Long (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon upon the departure of The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon.

KENSINGTON PALACE
July 10: The Prince of Wales, President, The Royal Air Forces Association, and Mrs. Geoffrey Peacock, Life Vice-President (Air Chief Marshal Sir William Savelley).
July 10: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, left Heathrow Airport, London this afternoon in an aircraft of Air Canada to visit Vancouver.

Her Royal Highness was received at the Airport by Mr Michael Phillips (representing the Canadian High Commissioner), Mr Peter Baldry (Air Canada Services Manager, Air Canada) and Mr John Field (Deputy Director (Engineering) British Airways Authority).

The Lord Napier and Ettrick and Captain Jeffrey Foss were in attendance.
July 10: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were present this evening at "The Green Heritage Ball" at Osterley Park House, London.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland and Mrs Euan McCordquaine were in attendance.
WORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
July 10: The Duke of Kent, President, today attended The Duke of York's Royal Military School's Grand Day at Dover.

Mr Nicholas Campbell, Lamerton was in attendance.
THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
July 10: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this afternoon received Sir Timothy Bevan, Chairman of the Ocean Youth Club.

In the evening, Her Royal Highness and the Hon Angus Ogilvy were present at the European Charity Premiere of the film "The Color Purple", in aid of the Hospitals for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street and the Variety Club of Great Britain, at the Empire Theatre, Leicester Square.

Mrs Peter Afia was in attendance.
A memorial service for Mr Jim Laker will be held in Southwark Cathedral today at 11.30 am.

School announcements

Eton College
Summer Half at Eton College ends today. There are 240 boys leaving including the captain of school, R. T. Harley, KS, and the captain of the Opiadians, the Hon E. G. Lennox-Boyd, OS, Dr J. P. Clayton, the school doctor, and Mr J. P. Pinches are retiring.

The House IVs were won by Dr D. Harrison's, who also retained the Athletics Cup. In the final of the house cricket Mr J. N. B. Cook's defeated Mr T. L. Holden's by 12 runs.

Michaelmas Half begins on September 10.
City of London School
Summer Term at City of London School ends today. The 1986 school year is being opened by a service in which the school raised over £24,000 for the British Heart Foundation. Andrew Smith has been selected as one of the six members of the British team for the International Mathematical Olympiad. The senior water polo team won the English Schools Championships for the second year in succession: the captain, Jerome Read, is a member of the England Under-20 Team. The school's fencers (both members of the British Under-20 Team) have won

Sabre Championships: Ben Liebelt is British Schoolboys Champion and Public Schools Junior Champion, and Damon Bristow is Public Schools Senior Champion.
The school moves in August to newly-built premises on a riverside site in the City, and the Autumn Term begins there on September 15. The address of the new school is Queen Victoria Road, London EC4V 3AL, (01-483 0291).

Westminster Cathedral Choir School
Summer Term ends for the school today after the annual concert and distribution of prizes at St John's, Smith Square, on Wednesday, July 9. The new organist, chairman of governors, and for the choristers after vespers on Sunday, July 13.

Choristers leaving this term have won music scholarships to the Royal College of Music, Stonyhurst (3), James Martin has won both music and academic awards to St Paul's. Michaelmas Term begins on September 11 and the induction of new choristers will take place during vespers on Sunday, September 21.

Luncheon

Company of Watermen and Lightermen
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress attended a luncheon given by the Company of Watermen and Lightermen at Watermen's Hall yesterday.

Mr R.C. Brassard and Miss S. Welch. The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs H. Forth Brassard, of Shipston-on-Strour, Warwickshire, and Sandy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Welch, of Merc. Cheshire.

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Marrriages
Mr N.H. Reed and Mrs N.D. Boyd. The marriage took place on May 31, in Montreal at Christ Church Cathedral between Mr Nicholas Hyl Rose, only son of Mr and Mrs Edward Rose, and Miss Nicola Dorothy Boyd, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Boyd.

Dr A.D.F. Streeten and Miss H.S. Mynors. The marriage took place on Saturday, June 14, at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Weymouth, Dorset, between Dr A.D.F. Streeten, only son of the late Mr F. F. Streeten and of Mrs Francis Streeten, of Tunbridge Wells, and Miss Sioril Mynors, younger daughter of the late Mr M. Mynors and of Mrs John Mynors, of Hunstanton.

Mr C.R.S. Thurlton and Miss V. Buhl Jensen. The marriage took place on Saturday, June 28, at Ordrup, Kirke, Copenhagen, between Mr Christopher Thurlton, elder son of Mr and Mrs O. Thurlton, of Whitburn, Co Durham, and Miss Vibeke Buhl Jensen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. V. Buhl Jensen, of Elby, Copenhagen.

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The Heatwave Ball is being held at Grosvenor House, W1, on July 16. Tickets are available from Sightline 01-262 0191.

Memorial services
Right Rev E.B. Henderson. The Archbishop of Canterbury will be represented by the Right Rev F. Wilson at a service of thanksgiving for the life of the Right Rev Edward Henderson held yesterday in Wells Cathedral. The Dean of Wells officiated and the Dean of Hereford was the officiating minister.

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OBITUARY

LE DUAN

Pragmatic leadership of North Vietnam

Le Duan, secretary general of the Vietnamese Communist Party who succeeded Ho Chi Minh in 1969 and led North Vietnam to victory in the Vietnam War, died yesterday. He was 78.

Like most of the elderly Hanoi leadership, Duan's hardline attitudes were bred in long years of fighting first the French and then the Americans.

He was born on April 7, 1907, the son of a carpenter in Quang Tri province (now absorbed in Binh Tri Thien province). After formal schooling, his first job was as a clerk with the French Railways in Hanoi in the 1920s.

Le Duan lived in South Vietnam until 1957 before moving to the North. He joined the Indochinese Communist Party, the forerunner of the Vietnamese Communist Party, at its inception in 1930. A year later, he was already in sharp conflict with the authorities and spent a number of years in prison for political activities.

On his release, he returned to his work as a member of the Party. Four years later, when the French took official action against the Party, he was arrested and again incarcerated.

Once free, Le Duan rose through the Party ranks. He was a firm supporter of decisive action, and in the 1950s persuaded Hanoi to apply military pressure on South Vietnam, laying the seeds of terrorism from which grew the

United States military involvement in the region. On the death of Ho Chi Minh in 1969, he emerged as the effective Party leader and assumed, without dissent, the reins of power, although he never assumed his predecessor's title of "chairman". With ruthless and single-minded intent, he then led his country to victory against the American-backed South.

It was a conflict that left a ravaged country in its wake, and when north and south were reunified at the end of the war in 1975, he advocated piecemeal and product-based wages in an attempt to revive the economy and feed the starving masses.

It was a policy which he described as "a progressive quantity had a narrow escape from death when an aircraft he was testing for its manoeuvring capabilities, got into an uncontrollable spin from which he was only able to extricate himself by bailing out at a terrifying 10,000 ft. Time to "get out and walk" as he later described it.

With his experience he was a natural choice to command the RAF's High Speed Flight in 1928 and immediately embarked on training for an assault on the world Air Speed Record, held at that point by Major Bernardi of the Italian Air Force, with a speed of 318.62 mph.

In his attempt, made on November 4, 1928, the best of Greig's runs, over the standard three kilometre course above the Solent, was timed at 322.66 mph. Neither that run nor the average of the four runs - though faster than the Italian at 319.57 mph - could be considered as a world record as they did not exceed Bernardi's speed by the 5mph required, in those days, by the rules.

Greig had to be satisfied, therefore, with a British record, and the award of the AFC.

For the 1929 Schneider competition, Supermarine produced a successor to the S5 which had beaten the Italian for the trophy in 1927, with a speed of 281 mph. On again the contest was an Anglo-

Italian affair, with Greig leading the British effort. In the event, it was for his No.2 Flying Officer H. R. D. Waghorn, to turn in the performance - 328.63 mph - which won the Trophy for the second time, with his captain, Greig in third place behind Warrant Officer T. Dal Molin of the Italian Air Force.

The 1931 Schneider race saw Britain retain the trophy permanently, with an updated version of the Mitchell-designed Supermarine monoplane, research for which contributed so much to the development of the Spitfire fighter. Among other interesting research items to emerge from the competition was the observation that the first of the phenomenon of blacking-out, while pulling G-turns, Greig himself was to serve again in Iraq, as well as in Egypt and Palestine, in the early stages of the Second World War.

He later served in Canada, retiring from the RAF in 1946, at the end of a career in which he had flown 144 aircraft types, ranging from biplanes of World War I to Spitfires, Mosquitos and Flying Fortresses.

In his retirement at Beahill, he lived quietly, devoting himself with skill and knowledge

THE ARTS

كنا من الجهل

Television
Promise of worse

The Cabinet system of government concentrates too much power in the hands of the Prime Minister, overloads ministers with work and allows too many major decisions to be taken elsewhere. These themes emerged from a recent history of the Cabinet...

Celia Brayfield

Cinema
Touching wizardry in Land of Oz

The Color Purple (15)
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue

Half Life (PG)
Metro 1

Murphy's Romance (15)
Curzon West End

Enemy Mine (PG)
Prince Charles

Youngblood (15)
Cannon Oxford Street

The Color Purple arrives in Britain after mountainous publicity. Nominated for 11 Oscars, Steven Spielberg's film won none; testimony, rumour goes, to Establishment disapproval of the director's youth, power and success (or possibly the superior qualities of the rival entries). The film has also been sub-thumped for its style and subject-matter...



Whoopi Goldberg (left), showing a chameleon's skills as Celie in redeeming The Color Purple, with Margaret Avery as Shug, prodding her to blossom and smile and shimmer with tender simplicity

confused by the flurry of exposition, the final rush of reunions, and much else in between. Luckily the film contains one great strength in the debut performance of Whoopi Goldberg...

proved he calls it Jerry. After displaying a stomach glowing like a brazier, Jerry gives birth and dies. The offspring is captured by marauders — and so it goes on, for 93 frantic minutes (15 minutes less than the American version, which sank like a stone)...

Youngblood, from Canada, is bluntly aimed at the teenage market. Young lads are offered all the violence and dirty tricks traditionally associated with junior league ice-hockey; young ladies, meanwhile, should delight in the heart-throb star, Rob Lowe, parading a sleek physique...

Geoff Brown

Concerts

SCO/Boettcher
Town Hall,
Cheltenham

Not for the first time, a new piece by Robert Saxton leaves one in the whirlwind irresolution of being in two minds at once, both of them excited. His Viola Concerto, which had a first performance from Paul Silverthorne on Wednesday night that was itself dizzying...

It also showed itself well designed for the virtuosity of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra under Wilfried Boettcher; and, while on the subject of Scottish orchestras, I must put right an error in my review of the Maxwell Davies Violin Concerto...

Obviously in such magnificently spacious surroundings one would not have expected the finest of fine detail in the chamber-orchestra sections to come through. The trouble was that virtually everything disappeared; bass lines sometimes managed to sound surprisingly clear, but nothing above middle register had a chance except when the harmony flowed in its broadest periods...

Malcolm Hayes

Dance
Banda
Coliseum

Geoffrey Holder's Banda is very much a one man show, since he is responsible for the sets, choreography, costumes and music — listed in that order in the programme credits, which might seem to indicate a bizarre idea of the relative importance of the ballet's component parts...

personable Donald Williams waggling his bare buttocks or making suggestive gestures with his walking stick turns you on, fine. You may also enjoy the elementary music with its percussive rhythms, whistles, heavy breathing and at one point solemn choral singing. Personally, I would rather see these dancers, including Mr Williams, in one of the other works such as Fancy Free or Allegro Brillante...

John Percival

Theatre
The Art of Success
The Other Place, Stratford

Thanks to his introduction of censorship, Robert Walpole remains a lively figure on the British theatre scene. But whatever his baneful influence on the stage, it was also Walpole who put through the 1735 Copyright Act — which guaranteed the livelihood of another group of artists by protecting them from piracy...

the 18th-century manner with characters who talk in the classless cockney of today. You get the style from the opening AGM of the Beefsteak Club, with the chairman casting his vote for laying on some whores under Any Other Business, and Hogarth confronting an art-collecting millionaire like an 18th-century Don McCuillin facing the director of the National Portrait Gallery...



Fiercely memorable: Penny Downie as the murderer

wants to niggle at public hypocrisy while also receiving a fat fee. He would be entirely at home in television or advertising; and, indeed, one of his nightmares includes the gift of a Polaroid camera. Bounding between clubland, prison and the brothel, the play accelerates into demented frenzy in which farce overlaps with the horrors...

Diffuse old jokes

The Cure for Love
Theatre Royal, York

Walter Greenwood is better known for his dire social-realist novel Love on the Dole than for this "breezy northern comedy" which — under the title Rod of Iron, and starring Robert Donat (a role he later re-created in his film version) — was a hit of 1945.

Mayes turns in a performance of stolid authority as the well-heeled publican who spends a large part of the action attempting to ban various intertempers from his private bar. But the script itself is hamstrung both by its reliance on wartime jokes (which simply do not work any longer) and by its pedestrian verbosity...

Martin Cropper

DISPOSAL AUCTIONS OF PERSIAN CARPETS RUGS AND RUNNERS. The Inventory includes antique rugs, silk rugs of various origins, Tribal and Nomadic rugs and many other unusual carpets and rugs from the East. At present all merchandise is stored in HM CUSTOMS BONDED WAREHOUSE the goods offered for Auction will be removed from bond (all duties paid) to the goods offered for Auction will be removed from bond (all duties paid) to the goods offered for Auction...

Adrian Noble has directed it on and around a raised platform (by Ultz) first seen as a gigantic table for the slumbering drunks of the Beefsteak Club. That sets up expressionistic expectations that are honoured throughout the evening with transformations to a fetid Newgate, a whore's pitch in Vauxhall Gardens and the Queen's bedroom. Altogether it suggests a pitiless world where disaster always looms, and nobody takes any precautions against it...

Irving Wardle

THE COCKTAIL PARTY. ALEC MCCOWEN, SHEILA SIMON, GISH WARD, RACHEL KEMPSON, SHEILA ALLEN, STEPHEN BOXER and ROBERT EDDISON. DIRECTION JOHN DEXTER, DESIGN BRIEN WAHEY, LIGHTING ANDY PHILLIPS. REDUCED PRICE PREVIEWS FROM 23 JULY! OPENS 28 JULY. THE NEW THEATRE COMPANY. PHOENIX THEATRE. 836 2294, CC 240 9661/741 9999. 24 Hour 7 day Credit Card (with fee). First Call 01 240 7300.

NATIONAL THEATRE. LAST 3 PERFORMANCES. Congreve's "WONDERFUL COMEDY" LOVE for LOVE. "A marvellous and very funny play". Lyttelton: Tonight at 7.45, tomorrow at 2.15 & 7.45. ENDS. Standby: any unsold seats at low prices from 2 hours before performance.

AN of North Vietnam

D. D'ARCY GREIG

JOHN ASHTON

CHANDR SINGH

New budget for EEC clinched on £93m deal

From Jonathan Brande, Strasbourg

The European Economic Community has agreed on a new 1986 budget of £21.9 billion, using up all the available funds and increasing this year's spending by more than £1 billion.

Parliament voted in favour of the budget by 355 to 27, with 21 abstentions, only a week after the European Court of Justice ruled that the original budget, pushed through at the end of last year, was illegal.

After four days of intensive negotiation, the governments of the twelve member states and the European Parliament agreed to an agricultural spending of £13.9 billion — an increase of £682 million on the budget thrown out by the court.

The extra money will be needed to cover the extra cost of subsidising agricultural exports, due to the fall in value against the dollar. The British Socialists voted against it.

Regional and social spending was increased by more than £400 million to £3.1 billion, with most of the extra funds going to Spain and Portugal, thereby winning the newcomers' votes for the budget.

Community's revenues within the ceiling of 1.4 per cent of VAT and income from customs duties and agricultural levies.

Fears of bankruptcy concentrated the minds of the negotiators during the course of Wednesday night, as all sides realized that failure to reach an agreement would leave the Community at least £3 billion short in 1986.

The crucial breakthrough came as Parliament accepted a £93 million deal to fund all the projects threatened by the court's decision. The money was put into a "negative reserve", which must be paid back at the end of the year from unspent funds in other areas of the budget.

Mr Peter Brooke, the British president of the Council of Budget Ministers, declared that the agreement was a success for Europe and could put an end to the annual squabbles over the division of funds.

Displaying his European credentials in heavily accented but accurate French, he expressed his pleasure that Parliament and governments could work together to resolve the problems of the EEC.

Russians in a jam over radio broadcasts

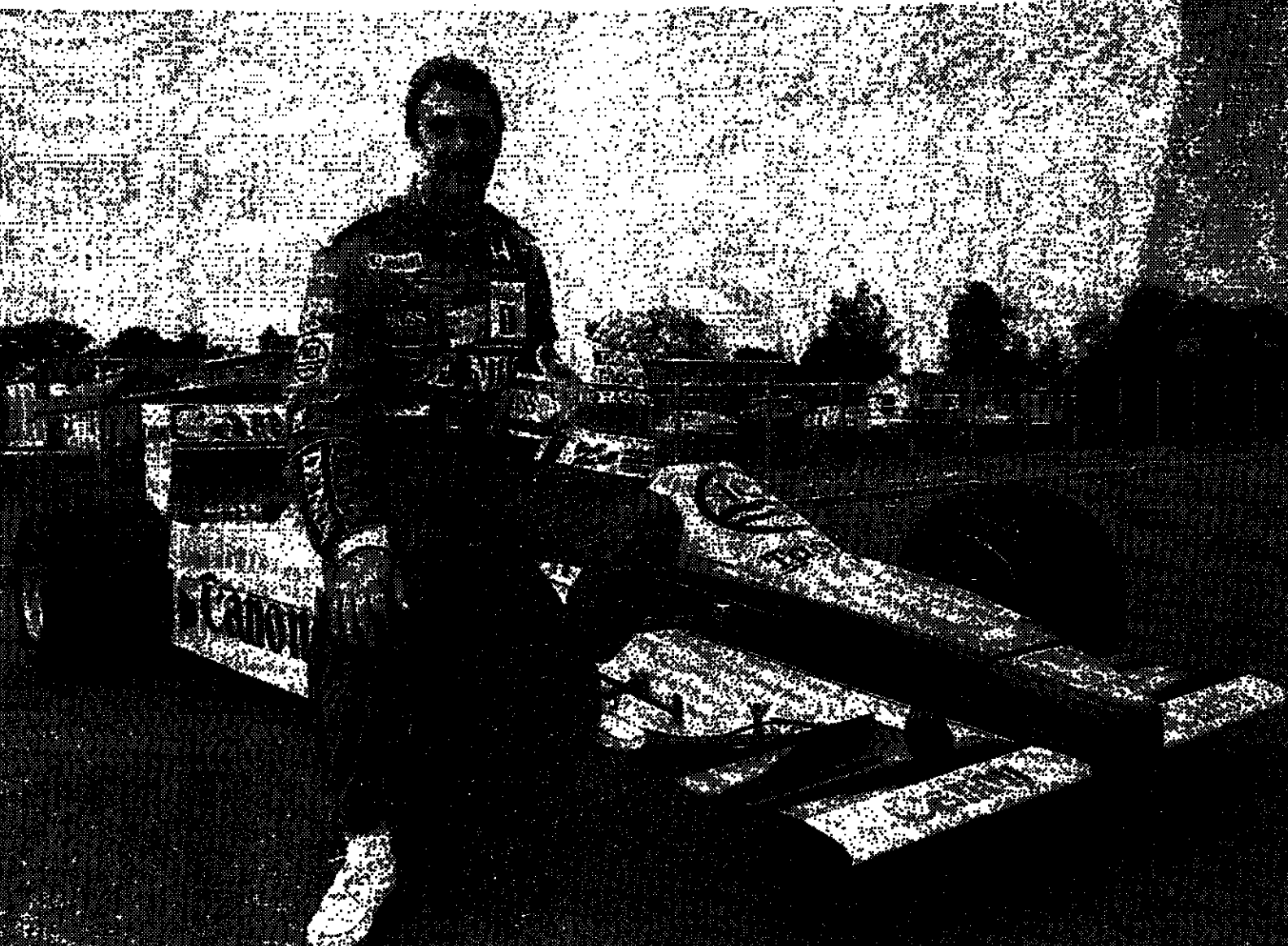
A BBC investigation has revealed that Radio Moscow broadcasts to Britain are disrupted — by the Soviet Union's jamming devices (Gavin Bell writes).

The inquiry was ordered after Mr Leonid Zamyatin, the Soviet Union's ambassador in Britain, complained to the Commons last week that he could not listen to programmes because they were being jammed, particularly in northern England.

BBC engineers, including some at the Skelton transmitter site in Cumbria, promptly checked reception of the six frequencies used by Moscow

to broadcast in English to Britain. They discovered:

- Three were operating without interference;
 - One was interfering with a neighbouring BBC World Service channel, despite repeated BBC complaints;
 - Two were being disrupted by distinctive Soviet "road-drill" type jamming on two adjacent western channels.
- The BBC, which believes it has 14 million regular listeners to its Russian service in the Soviet Union, estimates that Moscow spends £680 million a year jamming foreign broadcasts.



Nigel Mansell and machine at Brands Hatch yesterday... hoping to overtake reigning world champion Alain Prost (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Perfectionist looks to reality in title race

By Tim Jones

The man who would be king does not dream of wearing the crown. For Nigel Mansell knows that before he achieves that accolade he must survive another 1,300 miles of punishing driving at speeds averaging more than 115 mph.

Those hard miles represent the eight remaining races in the Formula One world championship season and Mansell knows that he must drive his 1,000 horsepower machine to perfection if he is to become the first Briton to win the drivers' championship since James Hunt 10 years ago.

By all the rules of this rich man's game, Mansell should not be on the starting grid at Brands Hatch on Sunday where the British Grand Prix is being fought out.

Unlike many of his glamorous rivals, Mansell has no wealthy parents to help him sustain the dream which he has nurtured since he was aged seven.

He worked, alongside his father, at Lucas Aerospace in Birmingham, but the ambition to drive faster than any man alive would not leave him. At first, he satisfied his lust for speed by go-kart racing, but that was not enough.

So, not long married, he sold his house to raise the money to enable him to take up Formula Ford racing. There was no champagne then. At night he framed pictures and by day went window cleaning in order to raise funds.

While his Formula Ford reputation was growing, he was running 15 miles a day to

keep fit and writing 30 letters a day to plead for sponsorship. His grit paid off. On Sunday, when he sits in his Canon-Honda-Williams car, he will know better than anyone that, with 38 points so far this season, he is only one behind the mercurial Alain Prost, the present world champion.

Speaking yesterday in his calm, unemotional Midlands accent, Mansell said that he did not dream of the world crown. "I would rather use the energy to make the dream come true rather than waste it dreaming."

Could he have achieved the dream if he had been wealthy? "Maybe yes, maybe no. If you have the wealth I don't know whether the hunger is there. But though I have the wealth the hunger is still with me."

"What I have achieved has been through determination, single-mindedness and doggedness. I am never arrogant because I believe you can always learn something."

He does not think of danger or death. "I take each race as it comes, although some pretty terrifying things can happen like being trapped in a burning car and unable to get out."

For a man whose profession has already cost him a broken back and neck it was a modest understatement. Away from the oil-thick smell of the racing pits, Mansell likes to return to his life of Man home with his wife Roseanne, and his children, Chloe, aged four, and Leo, aged 18 months.

Could he live totally tax free in somewhere like Monaco but the island is like a fairy tale to me."

There he practises on the seven-island golf courses where he hopes to perfect his game sufficiently well to pursue another great ambition — entry into the British Open. His handicap is approaching par and no one will bet against him succeeding.

According to Mr Peter Windsor, public affairs manager for the Williams team, Mansell, with his background, succeeded against odds of one million to one.

Mansell knows this but he is more aware of the 1,300 miles left to go, which is why on Sunday he will concentrate on reality. The dream can follow.

Hopes of second summit increase

Continued from page 1

there must be the possibility of a substantive agreement at the second summit before the Soviet side will agree to a final date. Both predicted that recent Soviet proposals to allow some research into the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) could provide a crucial basis for negotiation.

Mitterrand described some of the recent arms proposals put forward by Mr Gorbachov as "fairly spectacular" and, in answer to a broad question on the state of disarmament negotiations between East and West, concluded: "The path is a little clearer, before us, and that is an improvement."

On the key summit question, Dr Owen said that Mr Dobrynin, now head of the international department of the Communist Party's Central Committee, had made clear that before agreeing a date the Soviet side needed to know that at least one nuclear issue would be discussed with the chance of a substantive agreement.

He added his talks had made it clear that the Soviet Government understood that it could no longer hope to prevent research on SDI proceeding.

Mitterrand, although emphasizing his adherence to the Nato alliance, indicated French sympathy for the Soviet stand on a number of arms control issues.

The only sour note concerned the vexed question of human rights, particularly the unresolved case of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled Soviet physicist and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, who met Mitterrand in Paris in May.

Mr JERUSALEM: Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, yesterday rejected Mr Gorbachov's call for the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to hold a conference on the Middle East (Reuter reports).

"We will not accept any imposed solutions of our problems," Mr Shamir said. Sbervalandina visit, page 7. False picture, page 16.

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen visits Montgomeryshire district, arriving Machynlleth Station, 9.50. Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother visits the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon to mark the golden jubilee of the founding of Bomber, Fighter Training and Coastal Commands, 3.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, opens the Wansley Enterprise Agency, High Street, Faulton, Avon, 10.25; and then opens The Coast House Small Business Centre, Upper York St, St Paul's, Bristol, 11.30; later he visits the Bristol 1000 Centre, The Great Train Shed, Temple Meads Station, 12.35, and lunches with the chairman and directors of local enterprise agencies and the chairman and staff of the community action programmes, Brunel's Great Western Railway Boardroom, 1.10; he later lays the foundation stone for the new building at the American Museum in Britain, Bath, 2.30.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Council for the Protection of Rural England, attends a summer party, Easton Neston, Northants, 6.30.

The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, attends the Surrey University degree ceremony, Guildford Cathedral, 10.40.

Princess Michael of Kent, Patron, attends The Horse Rangers Society open day, Hampton Court, 2.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,095

1.10; he later lays the foundation stone for the new building at the American Museum in Britain, Bath, 2.30.

Princess Andrew takes the Salute at the afternoon performance of the Royal Tournament, Earls Court Exhibition Centre, 2.30.

Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Council for the Protection of Rural England, attends a summer party, Easton Neston, Northants, 6.30.

The Duke of Kent, Chancellor, attends the Surrey University degree ceremony, Guildford Cathedral, 10.40.

Princess Michael of Kent, Patron, attends The Horse Rangers Society open day, Hampton Court, 2.

Exhibitions in progress
Watercolours and oils by various artists, The Wykeham Galleries, Stockbridge, Tues to Sat 10 to 5 (ends Aug 30).
Paintings by Geoffrey Key and John Kimpton, In Celebration of the 50's; The Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd St, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 11 to 4 (ends July 25).

Music
Harp recital by Vanessa McKeand, St Swithun's, Kennington, Oxford, 7.30.
1812 Night: concert by the Band of the Royal Artillery, The Parade ground Redoubt Fort, Falkenstein, 8.
Concert by the Schubertians: Holy Trinity Church, Ripon, 7.30.
Recital by the choir of King's School, Rochester, Rochester Cathedral, 8.
Concert by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Town Hall, Birmingham, 7.30.
Bath Georgian Festival: Concert by the Royal Academy of Music; The Pump Room, Bath, 8.
Aylestone School concert, Hereford Cathedral, 1.30; Concert by the Herefordshire Schools Orchestra, Shire Hall, Hereford, 7.
Chichester Festival: Piano recital by Andrei Gavrilov, Chichester Cathedral, 7.30.

General
Swale Heritage Festival: Flower festival and craft exhibition, Holy Trinity Church, Broadway, Sheerness, 10 to 8.
Book fair, Abbey Theatre, Westminster Lodge, St Albans, today 2 to 8, tomorrow 10 to 5.
University of Exeter science and engineering open days: magic show, computers, demonstrations, videos, films and working displays, Exeter University, today and tomorrow, 10 to 4.30.

Anniversaries
Births: Robert the Bruce, king of Scotland 1306-29, 1774; John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States 1825-29, Quincy, Massachusetts, 1767.
Deaths: William Ernest Henley, poet and critic, Woking, Surrey, 1903; Gertrude Bell, traveller, Baghdad, 1926; Alfred Dreyfus, Paris, 1935; George Gershwin, Hollywood, 1937; Sir Arthur Evans, archaeologist, Youlbury, Oxfordshire, 1941.

The pound

Australia \$	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Austria S	2.52	2.57
Belgium F	24.00	22.80
Canada \$	70.50	67.10
Denmark Kr	12.77	12.12
Finland Mk	6.12	7.62
France F	163.80	162.80
Germany Dm	1.425	1.425
Greece Dr	211.00	207.00
Italy Lira	2036	2036
Japan Yen	235.00	241.00
Netherlands Gld	1.485	1.485
Norway Kr	11.77	11.17
Portugal Esc	200.00	210.00
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	216.5	206.5
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.95
USA \$	1.575	1.508
Yugoslavia Dnr	615.00	585.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.
Retail Price Index: 288.0
London: The FT index closed up 9.1 at 1342.8.

ACROSS
1 Climbed like a fish (6).
5 24's sound, pure wool (8).
9 Padre? (10).
10 Container for wine (4).
11 Flatter, and rather dull? (8).
12 Pierce the wrong way — here's the right way to do it (6).
13 Group of people in bar, talking (4).
15 Pine, in the early morning, turns to a pleasant tree (8).
18 Replace suitor? Not II (8).
19 The taste of seaweed (4).
21 Fearlessly, for instance, braved ruin (6).
23 Make economies in connection with private home (8).
25 Try to pay attention (4).
26 No, we hear, about to have romance and marry (5).
27 Reunites can be grasping (8).
28 First in school we study a country (6).

DOWN
2 There could be a catch in it (5).
3 Casanova's trophy? (6-3).
4 Fraud takes a month to draw up (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,094

ACROSS
1 FISH
5 WOOL
9 PADRE
10 WINE
11 DULL
12 RIGHT
13 BAR
15 TREE
18 SUIT
19 SEAWEED
21 BRAVE
23 ECONOMY
25 ATTENTION
26 MARRY
27 GRASPING
28 COUNTRY

DOWN
2 CATCH
3 CASANOVA
4 FRAUD
5 WOOL
6 RIGHT
7 PADRE
8 TREE
9 SUIT
10 WINE
11 DULL
12 RIGHT
13 BAR
14 FISH
15 TREE
16 WINE
17 SUIT
18 SUIT
19 SEAWEED
20 PADRE
21 BRAVE
22 WINE
23 ECONOMY
24 WINE
25 ATTENTION
26 MARRY
27 GRASPING
28 COUNTRY

Food prices

The first of the English raspberries are in the shops at 50p-60p a quarter lb but strawberries at 50p-75p a lb and gooseberries at 35p-50p a lb are a better buy. Open melons from Holland at £1-£1.75 each and Cyprus sultana grapes £1.25-£1.35 a lb are now in the shops. There are two new pears from Spain named Mauringin and Limondar at 50p-60p a lb.

English courgettes at 30p-40p a lb are a good buy this week. For those who have gazed longingly at imported mangoutout at about £3 a lb, there is now an English crop ranging from £1.25 a lb. Home grown peas at 25p-40p a lb and broad beans at 30p-40p a lb are also available. Cauliflowers 28p-40p each and English new potatoes 10p-14p a lb. Jersey Royal potatoes 12p-15p a lb and mushrooms from 30p-60p a half lb.

Salad ingredients are plentiful with lettuces ranging from 20p-65p a head, tomatoes 38p-50p a lb, watercress 25p-35p a bunch, Cucumbers 25p-50p each.

Billingsgate market has a superb selection of shellfish this week including lobster, crayfish and large crab. Cod, haddock, mackerel, grey mullet, small turbot and halibut are all plentiful. Herrings and lemon sole are plentiful and best prices are being offered.

Home produced lamb prices are still falling. Whole leg prices have dropped by 25p a lb in some areas. Some good meat buys this week are Tesco rump steak £2.32 a lb and grade A frozen duck 69p a lb; Sainsbury's extra lean mince £1.32 a lb and frozen chickens up to 3½ lbs in weight at 48p a lb.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 10.45 am.

Top Films

- The top box-office films in London:
- (1) A Room with a View
 - (2) Down and Out in Beverly Hills
 - (3) After Hours
 - (4) The Money Pit
 - (5) House
 - (6) Runaway Train
 - (7) The Jewel of the Nile
 - (8) Young Blood
 - (9) Jagged Edge
- The top films in the provinces:
- 1 Down and Out in Beverly Hills
 - 2 House
 - 3 The Jewel of the Nile
 - 4 The Money Pit
 - 5 The Jewel of the Nile
- Supplied by Screen International

Top video rentals

- (1) Cocoon
 - (2) The Max - Beyond Thunderdome
 - (3) The Emerald Forest
 - (4) Flash
 - (5) Witness
 - (6) St Elmo's Fire
 - (7) The Re-Animator
 - (8) Summer Rental
 - (9) The Code of Silence
 - (10) Car Trouble
- Supplied by Video Business

Pollen count

The pollen count for London and the South-east issued by the Asthma Research Council at 10 am yesterday was 58 (high). Forecast for today, similar. For today's recording call British Telecom's Weatherline: 01-246 8091, which is updated each day at 10.30 am.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on policing the metropolis.
Lords (11): Financial Services Bill, second reading.

Portfolio Gold

11 If for any reason The Times Prices is not published in the London edition, the price will be suspended for that day.

How to play — Daily Dividend: On each day a random set of eight numbers will be published in The Times Portfolio list which will appear on the Stock Exchange Prices page. In the column provided next to your share number the numbers of 1-49 are divided into four randomly selected groups of 11 shares. Every Portfolio card contains two numbers, one from each group and each card contains a unique set of numbers.

3 Times portfolio "winners" will be the share in which the numbers in the column next to the share number are a combination of eight from the random set of numbers. The share number of the winning card will be published in the Portfolio list.

4 The overall prize movement of more than one combination of shares equals the dividend. The prize will be equally divided among the claimants holding more combinations of shares.

5 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Times Portfolio card that is defective, damaged with or without the numbers, or which is not correctly printed in any way will be deemed void.

8 Employees of News International plc and its subsidiaries and of European Group Limited (producers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not allowed to play Times Portfolio.

9 All participants will be subject to the Rules. All instructions on "how to play" and "how to claim" whether published in The Times or in Times Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these Rules. The Editor of The Times is the sole arbiter in any dispute. The Editor's decision is final and correspondence will be entered into.

10 In any dispute, The Editor's decision is final and correspondence will be entered into.

Weather forecast

An anticyclone to the NW of Scotland will decline slowly to allow a depression with its associated fronts to bring rain to much of the country.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Mainly cloudy, a light rain in places; wind SW light; max temp 20C (68F).
Central & South England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, some hail and drizzle; wind light to moderate; max temp 19C (66F).
Wales, SW England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Bright intervals at first, becoming overcast; max temp 18C (64F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee: Bright intervals at first, becoming overcast; max temp 18C (64F).
Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers; wind variable becoming SE light; max temp 15C (59F).
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: Rather cloudy, mainly dry at first but some rain from the SW perhaps followed by some brief showers; wind light to moderate; max temp 16C (61F).
Central Highlands, NW Scotland: Sunny intervals, mainly dry becoming cloudy from the SW; rain in places; wind mainly SE light; max temp 16C (61F).
Forecast for Saturday and Sunday: Generally rather cloudy with rain in places, but brighter conditions with isolated showers; wind mainly SE light to moderate; max temp 16C (61F).
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; L, low; H, high; S, sun.

Lighting-up time

London 9.45 pm to 4.27 am
Bristol 9.55 pm to 4.37 am
Edinburgh 10.24 pm to 4.13 am
Brighton 10.28 pm to 4.25 am
Perthance 10.00 pm to 4.55 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; L, low; H, high; S, sun.
EAST COAST
Aberdeen 5.9 - 17 63 cloudy
Birmingham 3.5 - 16 61 cloudy
Cardiff 5.5 - 18 64 bright
Cromer 5.5 - 18 64 bright
Dunfermline 5.2 - 18 64 sunny
Glasgow 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
London 5.3 - 19 62 bright
Manchester 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Newcastle 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Nottingham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Plymouth 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Sheffield 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Southampton 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Tottenham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Wolverhampton 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Wrexham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
WYTHAMPTON
Aberdeen 5.9 - 17 63 cloudy
Birmingham 3.5 - 16 61 cloudy
Cardiff 5.5 - 18 64 bright
Cromer 5.5 - 18 64 bright
Dunfermline 5.2 - 18 64 sunny
Glasgow 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
London 5.3 - 19 62 bright
Manchester 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Newcastle 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Nottingham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Plymouth 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Sheffield 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Southampton 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Tottenham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Wolverhampton 5.5 - 18 64 sunny
Wrexham 5.5 - 18 64 sunny

Roads

The Midlands: M6: Contrailow between junction 4 (Bromsgrove) and 5 (Droitwich).
M5: Temporary lights (24 hours) at M5 junction 4 (Bromsgrove) and 5 (Droitwich).
M6: Temporary lights (24 hours) at M6 junction 1 (Leicester) and 2 (Leicester).

High Tides

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.20	6.8	5.30	6.8
Alford	4.57	6.2	5.0	6.5
Amurthorpe	4.01	11.8	10.53	12.7
Belfast	2.17	5.4	2.42	5.0
Cardiff	10.26	11.26	10.38	11.2
Devonport	3.09	4.8	3.17	5.1
Exmouth	2.29	6.1	2.35	6.2
Glasgow	3.38	4.7	4.36	4.0
Harwich	3.09	3.8	3.24	3.8
Headland	2.42	3.2	1.58	3.8
Hull	3.39	6.8	10.14	6.7
Liverpool	3.27	5.2	3.42	5.4
London	5.20	6.8	5.30	6.8
Lough Swilly	3.35	5.1	3.27	4.9
Manchester	2.26	3.8	2.48	3.8
Newcastle	12.58	1.1	12.44	2.4
North Shields	3.45	5.2	3.47	5.4
Nottingham	3.45	5.2	3.47	5.4
Perthance	8.16	4.8	8.21	5.2
Portsmouth	10.33	1.6	10.31	1.9
Southampton	2.26	3.1	2.11	3.4
Shoreham	2.19	5.8	2.31	5.8
Swansea	1.49	4.2	2.26	4.2
Swansea	1.49	4.2	2.26	4.2
Tees	8.57	5.1	7.34	4.8
Torquay	3.45	5.2	3.47	5.4
Tybee-on-Sea	3.05	3.8	3.18	3.5

Tide measured in metres: Tm=2.000m.

Around Britain

Sun Rain	Max	C	F	Sun Rain	Max	C	F
EAST COAST							
Birmingham	5.9	-	17 63	cloudy			
Bristol	5.5	-	18 64	cloudy			
Cardiff	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Cromer	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Dunfermline	5.2	-	18 64	bright			
Glasgow	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
London	5.3	-	19 62	bright			
Manchester	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Newcastle	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Nottingham	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Plymouth	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Sheffield	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Southampton	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Tottenham	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Wolverhampton	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Wrexham	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
WYTHAMPTON							
Aberdeen	5.9	-	17 63	cloudy			
Birmingham	3.5	-	16 61	cloudy			
Cardiff	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Cromer	5.5	-	18 64	bright			
Dunfermline	5.2	-	18 64	bright			

Hopes of second summit increase

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET FT 30 Share 1340.6 (+9.1) FT-SE 100 1626.7 (+12.1) Bargains 25527 USM (Datastream) 124.79 (+0.26) THE POUND US Dollar 1.5170 (-0.0080) W German mark 3.2968 (-0.0342) Trade-weighted 74.9 (-0.6)

Allied wins appeal

Allied-Lyons has won another round in its \$Can2.6 billion (£1.24 billion) quest to buy Hiram Walker's drinks division.

Allied still has two major hurdles to clear. On Wednesday it begins court action in an attempt to force O & Y to honour Allied's contract with the previous management and to seek damages of up to \$Can9 billion.

And Investment Canada, the Canadian monopolies authority, still has to approve the transaction.

Birmid jumps

Birmid Qualcast, the foundry company, increased profits from £3.68 million to £6.14 million before tax in the six months to June 3.

Market debut

Stanley Leisure, which operates 117 betting shops and four casinos in the North and Midlands, is coming to the stock market next week with a placing of 2.73 million shares at 110p each.

First test

British Electricity International, the overseas consultancy run by the electricity supply industry, has completed the initial testing of a £400,000 wind generator for the Barbados Government.

GRE victory

Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance company, has won approval from the City of London Corporation for its £20 million refurbishment of the Royal Exchange, a landmark in the Square Mile.

Talks off

Texas Air Corp said it had ended talks with People Express about acquiring the ailing carrier after the People Express board rejected its \$9 a share cash and stock offer.

ATS go-ahead

Wemyss Investments has declared its offer for ATS Resources unconditional on receiving acceptances for 33 per cent shares.

Sale success

Windsmoor's offer for sale of 6.6 million shares has been oversubscribed.

Comment 23 Commodities 24 Stock Market 23 USM Prices 24 Foreign Exch 23 Share Prcs 26 Traded Gaps 23 Company News 26 Money Mkts 23 Copy News 26 Unit Trusts 24 Wall Street 26

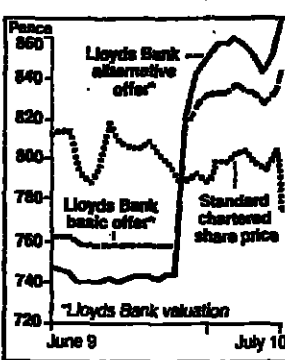
MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS New York 1806.62 (-19.55) Dow Jones 17489.82 (-38.29) Nikkei Dow 1718.30 (-29.31) Hang Seng 1718.30 (-29.31) Amsterdam 232.9 (+2.6) Sydney AO 1134.1 (+11.7) Frankfurt 1859.8 (+21.8) Commerzbank 703.41 (-2.89) Brussels 372.3 (+4.1) Zurich 1859.8 (+21.8) SKA General n/a London closing prices Page 25

Pao snaps up 10% Standard stake

By Graham Searjeant Financial Editor

Sir Yue-Kong Pao, the Hong Kong shipping and property magnate, has made a dramatic entry into the bid battle for the Standard Chartered banking group by building up a stake of almost 10 per cent in two bouts of buying on the London Stock Exchange.



Lloyds Merchant Bank also bought a further 3 million shares on behalf of Lloyds Bank after buying 4 million on Wednesday.

He announced a 5.4 per cent stake overnight and then bought a further 7 million shares yesterday morning, putting his total stake at 9.97 per cent. The stake is worth about £120 million.

The buying came after the purchase of a 5 per cent stake by the Singapore financier, Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, who had also declared his support for Standard Chartered's continued independence.

With other holdings, it is thought that about 20 per cent of Standard Chartered shares are now committed to the board.

Shares in Standard Chartered plunged on the news as market fears grew that the £1.3 billion takeover bid by Lloyds Bank might fail. At one time Standard shares fell from 802p to 767p and closed 25p down at 777p.

Henry Schroder Wagg, the merchant bank advising Standard Chartered, admitted that the share price fall stemmed from a possible failure of the bid, which closes for acceptances at 1pm on Saturday.

Mr David Horne of Lloyds Merchant Bank said that the Standard Chartered share price might relapse below 700p if the bid failed and it was no longer profitable for shareholders to sell in the market.

The intentions of Standard Chartered's powerful new shareholders in the Far East, the most important part of the bank's operation, are unclear. Sir Yue-Kong made an expensive counter offer to stop Tan Sri Khoo buying the Hong Kong group, Wheelock Marden, so the two are unlikely to be seen as allies.

Inmos to shift production from US to South Wales

By Clare Dobie

Inmos, the semiconductor manufacturing company owned by Thorn EMI, is to cease production in the US. The work will be transferred from Colorado to its plant at Newport, Gwent.

Thorn EMI, which yesterday announced its results for the year to March 31, said the rationalization programme, involving the loss of 450 jobs in Colorado Springs, started yesterday.

Inmos made a loss of £25 million before interest last year, against a profit of £4.2 million in the previous period and a budgeted breakeven.

Sir Graham Wilkins, Thorn's chairman, said: "Inmos remains our major problem. There is no pick-up in the semiconductor or peripheral market." He said the transfer of production to Newport would reduce costs by \$3 million (£1.9 million) a month, but to reach breakeven Inmos would have to increase sales slightly.

of Inmos from the Government two years ago. Its current shareholding is 95 per cent. Thorn's profits of £104.7 million before tax, down from £108.3 million, were better than expected, despite the problems at Inmos. On the stock market its shares initially rose by 44p to 511p but later fell back to 487p.

Mr Southgate said the results reflected an underlying trading improvement of more than 15 per cent. There was an extraordinary charge of £61 million, including £45 million for the cost of rationalization and equipment write-offs at Inmos. The rest of the extraordinary charge was made up of £10 million costs of transferring television rental business out of Rumbelows and £6 million costs of closing the cable business.

The final dividend was unchanged at 12.5p, leaving the total at 17.5p. The dividend was covered 1.5 times by after tax profits. Attributable profits were only £400,000.

Sir Graham said Thorn had completed its programme of major disposals. In addition to Thorn EMI Screen Entertainment which Thorn sold controversially to Bond Corporation, it has recently disposed of its heating business, companies in Metal Industries and its cable television interests.

Taken together the proceeds amount to £200 million. Thorn admitted that its American music business, with pop stars such as Tina Turner and David Bowie, made a loss of \$20 million last year.

Mr Colin Southgate, Thorn's managing director, said it was still hoping to find a partner for Inmos but that would only be possible when the company was breaking even.

If Inmos does not return to breakeven in the current year further action will be considered, including closure.

N Sea oil prices fall again

By David Young Energy Correspondent

World oil prices continued their slide yesterday with North Sea crude being quoted at \$9.70 a barrel amid continuing reports of prices below \$7 a barrel for high quality Middle East crude.

The fall brings the prospect of lower petrol prices closer and will also lead to further pressure on industrial coal prices as the main users in the private sector — the chemical, paper-making and cement industries — are offered lower-priced, heavy fuel oil.

The price decline has also forced the Norwegian government to reconsider its taxation system on oil produced in the sector of the North Sea. At present royalties from oil from the leading Norwegian fields range from eight to 16 per cent with companies also paying a 35 per cent tax on profits derived from the North Sea.

The Norwegian government is now considering cutting the 35 per cent tax rate to 30 per cent in order to help companies maintain their exploration programmes in the face of falling revenues.

The British Government is already under pressure to bring forward the scheduled date for repayment of Advanced Petroleum Revenue Tax to help the smaller oil companies weather the present financial storm.

The pound fell yesterday, in response to the renewed weakness of oil prices. Sterling's drop, following the money supply figures on Tuesday, removed remaining City hopes for a cut in base rates.

This is despite the fact that inflation figures due today are expected to show a fall in the rate from 2.8 per cent in May to around 2.5 per cent last month.

The pound fell by 80 points to \$1.5170 against the dollar, and by more than three pence against DM3.2968 against the mark. The sterling index fell 0.6 to 74.9.

After the June money supply figures, showing a 1.25 per cent rise in sterling M3 and a £2.1 billion increase in bank lending, City analysts said that the prospect of lower base rates now rested with rate reductions in other countries.

Yesterday Mr Satoshi Sumita, the Governor of the Bank of Japan, said in Tokyo that he saw no reason for a cut in the discount rate, currently 3.5 per cent.

Oil power shift, page 22



Sir John Clark: board unanimous on independence

Plessey squares up for big bid fight

By Cliff Feltham

Sir John Clark, Plessey's chairman, yesterday warned GEC that it faces a big battle if the Monopolies Commission gives it the go-ahead to renew its £1.2 billion takeover bid.

"The board is unanimous in its determination to protect and retain Plessey's independence," he told shareholders at the company's annual meeting.

He was also promised support from the Plessey workforce which yesterday reaffirmed its resistance to a GEC takeover and staged a protest march to 10 Downing Street.

Sir John, who quashed reports that he had held private talks with Lord Weinstock, the GEC chief, said Plessey's prospects as an independent company were good.

He said that new business plans should be generating £400 million sales in 1987-88 and £850 million by the end of the decade.

Sir John said that a combined Plessey-GEC group would mean that "it would become virtually impossible for the Ministry of Defence to obtain competitive tenders for naval and air defence radar systems except from abroad."

Sir John told shareholders: "We have no wish to become a conglomerate, still less part of a conglomerate." He said the Plessey business would be at risk if GEC took over.

In the City yesterday opinion was still divided over whether the Monopolies Commission — expected to hand its report over to the Secretary of State next week — will give GEC the green light.

Mr Alan Quinton, electronics analyst at W Greenwell, the stockbrokers, said: "The feeling is that GEC will get the go-ahead and will then make a bid although at the moment Plessey seems to be winning more of the public relations battle than GEC."

Mr Douglas Hawkins, analyst with James Capel, the brokers, was less sure about the outcome and even more doubtful whether GEC would be prepared to launch a takeover bid at Plessey's current market price.

"I don't think Lord Weinstock will be prepared to line the City's pockets with gold. He certainly will not want to pay anything like the current price," he said.

Mr Plessey was accused but found not guilty by a Lloyd's disciplinary committee of misappropriating funds dishonestly, plundering a reinsurance company for his personal benefit and seriously falsifying group accounts. He was, however, found guilty of accepting a Pissarro painting as a bribe and of not declaring his stake in the Banque du Rhone et de la Tamise.

The disciplinary committee recommended Mr Plessey's expulsion from Lloyd's for life, but its verdict was overturned by Lord Wilberforce in an appeal in May 1985. Lord Wilberforce substituted a six-month suspension on Mr Plessey.

Mr Plessey was prevented from returning to work in the insurance market after his suspension expired because Lloyd's ruling council deemed him not to be a "fit and proper" person.

Posgate loses fight to lift ban

By Alison Eadie

Mr Ian Posgate, once dubbed the "Goldfinger" of the Lloyd's insurance market because of his underwriting success, has lost his appeal to be allowed to return to active underwriting.

Lord Wilberforce, the head of Lloyd's appeals tribunal, dismissed Mr Posgate's appeal against Lloyd's verdict that he was not a "fit and proper person" to do business in the market.

Lord Wilberforce said that, as the Council of Lloyd's had before it material upon which

Where are interest rates heading? Kenneth Fleet's column is on page 23

it could decide that Mr Posgate was not fit and proper, its decision was not unreasonable.

He said the only real issue was whether he should remit to the council specific matters raised by the appeals tribunal which the council had not considered, or ask the council to ignore specific matters which it had taken into account. Lord Wilberforce wrote in his decision: "I do not find any such matters can be identified."

The dismissal of his appeal appears to mark the end of Mr Posgate's four-year battle to return to Lloyd's. He said he was very sorry the appeal had failed.

Mr Posgate was suspended from active underwriting in 1982 after the Alexander Howden affair blew up. Alexander & Alexander Services, the American insurance company which took over Howden, alleged that \$55 million had gone missing from Howden managed insurance syndicates of which Mr Posgate was the underwriter.

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Cash call for £23m at insurer

By Our City Staff

London United Investments, the insurance company and underwriting agent, has asked its shareholders for £23.4 million net in a one-for-two rights issue at 330p. It is LUT's third rights issue in three years.

The money will be used to allow its subsidiary insurance company, Walbrook, to underwrite a far higher level of American casualty business.

Premium rates in American casualty have risen by four to six times their levels of last year and the overall lack of capacity in the insurance industry means that good business is going begging, the company said.

LIU has forecast a dividend increase this year of more than 50 per cent compared with last year's total of 15p net. Its taxable profits last year climbed by 52 per cent to £9.4 million, due to the higher volume of business and improvement in premium rates — and despite an adverse currency movement of £1.5 million.

The shares rose 15p to 418p yesterday

Tunnel prospectus may be delayed

By Our City Staff

Lord Pennock, joint chairman of Eurotunnel, the Anglo-French consortium which won the Channel tunnel contract, will today try to allay fears that the project is facing delays.

He is expected to stress that the precise timing of the prospectus to raise the first £200 million of funding for the £6.2 billion project is not material to the overall timing of the project.

The prospectus to raise £200 million through a private institutional placing was expected to be published in its "red herring" form this month.

It may now not appear until September. Those close to the project said yesterday that the French, who will provide 35 per cent of the £200 million, tend to be on holiday in August. Many of the British institutional fund managers, who will provide an additional 35 per cent, are also away.

Eurotunnel is understood to want to settle all the preliminary arrangements with banks, railways and contractors before starting the funding process.

The contracts with construction companies are thought to be reaching their final form, after delays working out the level of risk assumption by the various parties.

Mr John Franklin, of advising bank Morgan Grenfell, said yesterday that they were pleased with project's progress. "It is a large project and there is a lot to be done," he added.

The £200 million fund raising exercise will be followed next year by an £800 million equity raising from the public. This will not begin until the Parliamentary process is completed next summer.



Lord Pennock: attempting to allay fears about timing

Timothy Aitken issues writ against former company

By Richard Lander

Mr Timothy Aitken, chairman of the TV-am company which is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market, has begun proceedings for libel against Aitken Hume International, the financial services group from which he resigned as chief executive in November.

The writ, issued last night by his solicitors, D.J. Freeman & Co., concerns a letter to shareholders written on Wednesday by Mr Tony Constance, his successor at Aitken Hume, as part of the group's defence against a takeover bid by Mr Nick Oppenheim's Trainwood Group.

The writ also covers a defence document issued last month.

The letter referred to Mr Aitken's acrimonious departure from Aitken Hume, which he ran with his cousin, Mr Jonathan Aitken, as well as

the resignation of the former finance director, Mr Michael Scorey, and the former property director, Mr John Kidd.

The letter also alleged overstatement of the value and profits of Aitken Hume's property interests in the company's previous accounts.

Mr Timothy Aitken's resignation, amid reports of a family feud with his cousin, marked the start of a tumultuous period for Aitken Hume. A sharp drop in interim profits was followed in May by the unwelcome all-paper bid by Mr Oppenheim, who has already received acceptances for just over 50 per cent of the company.

Shortly before the bid Prince Michael of Kent resigned as a non-executive director. Aitken Hume's results for the year to March 31, issued in last month's defence docu-

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Balance of power shifts to oil companies

Market forces are emerging as a significant determinant of oil prices. However, among the other contenders for this role, the oil companies as a group may now have more flexibility to exert their influence than does the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

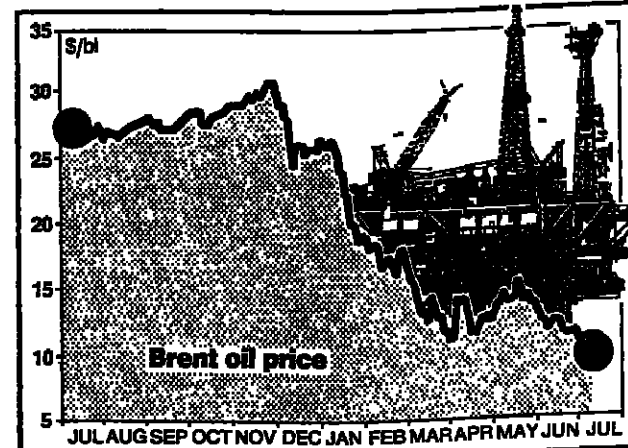
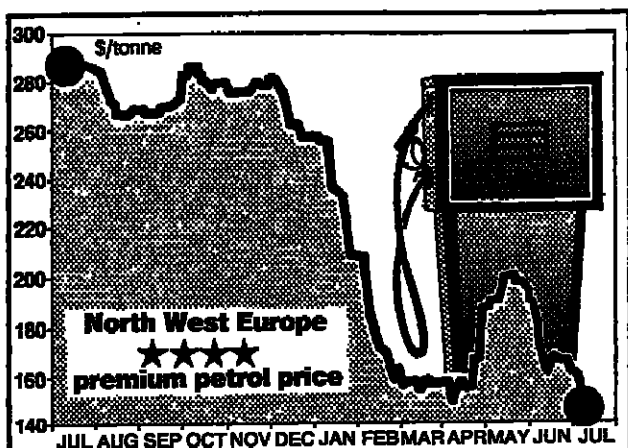
This perhaps surprising conclusion can be drawn from an examination of what has been happening to stocks.

In classical economic theory, he who controls supply at the margin controls the price. Opec's grip on marginal oil supplies in 1974 combined with rising demand was the power base from which it was able to multiply the oil price.

The forces causing its subsequent slide were falling demand and the resultant gradual loss of control by Opec. As demand fell Opec became less able to cut its production back further until gradually it became virtually powerless to adjust supply at the margin.

However, in this supply and demand equation there was another element which is often underestimated, but which, in the light of what is happening now, assumes great significance. In the three years from 1981 to 1983, the oil companies ran their stocks down by an average of about 1 million barrels a day.

In 1984 and 1985, the destocking process continued at a slower rate, but was probably still close to 400,000 barrels a day. Inventory was therefore a significant source of oil supply during the last



five years. It was also, as Opec raised the oil price, the cheapest source.

Most important of all, it was under the control of the oil companies, and they drew stocks down most heavily in the winter months, the time of greatest demand. This smoothed out the seasonal fluctuations in the refinery's requirements from Opec and effectively gave the industry at least some control over the marginal barrel.

A resumption of Opec control is at the root of the

Oil stocks are difficult to define and measure. At present, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development nations hold stocks of more than 3 billion barrels. Industry stocks are thought to be at their lowest levels since 1979, at 75 days of forward supply.

Industry stocks consist of stocks at the refinery, of crude oil waiting to be processed, and refined products awaiting sale. Oil contained in tankers from the oilfields to the refinery are usually included. Strategic stocks are an anachronism from the days of oil shortages and are held either by governments or as a result of government direction. Consumer stocks, most difficult of all to measure, include

thinking of those who believe that the oil price will stabilize in the \$15 to \$18 a barrel range in the foreseeable future. This has been forecast to take place this autumn.

However, all the evidence points to the conclusion that Opec will not resume control in such a short time. To begin with, it appears that the oil companies are stocking up on a massive scale. Oil is plentiful and cheap and storage tanks are empty. Output from Opec is at present estimated to be nearly

19 million barrels a day, a level which is almost certainly not justified by underlying demand and it is entirely possible that stocks are now being rebuilt at the rate of as much as 2 million barrels a day.

While no one can be sure what is happening to demand, it clearly is not rising as far or as fast as the fall in the price. Oil is still not significantly cheaper than other fuels in many of its uses. There is also a strong antipathy towards oil among consumers and there is

little appetite for switching back to what is seen as an unreliable energy source. Compound this with the fact that the summer is a time of weak demand and it becomes clear that the underlying demand for Opec oil is probably not much more than 17 million barrels a day and the only reason Opec is able to produce at 19 million barrels a day at all, is because the industry is stocking up.

These replenished stocks will give the industry enormous flexibility. While there

Meanwhile, falling demand created a surplus of refineries, many of which had been built in expectation of rising demand. As these refineries were closed, their stocks were sold.

Those refineries which remained were modernized and upgraded, and as they became more efficient, lower stocks were needed to run them.

is continuing uncertainty in the market, created by Opec's penchant for holding meetings and its inability to agree anything except which European resort it will favour for its next meeting, stocks can be used as a buffer to smooth out fluctuations.

There have been well-documented occasions in the last 5 years when the companies have run down stocks at the rate of more than 4 million barrels a day. Such periods have been brief, but effective in eroding Opec's power.

Compare this with Opec's inability to shave 1 or 2 million barrels a day off its output levels and it soon becomes apparent where the power lies. The oil companies appear to have greater control over the marginal barrel than Opec does.

For Opec to regain control, there will need to be a material and sustained rise in demand. As it is the refiners who buy the oil in the market, they create the demand, or choose to use stocks as the case may be. Ultimately, therefore, market forces may now be more responsible for current price levels than at any time in living memory.

Demand for oil will rise in the winter quarters of 1986/7 as it has in every other year. This increased demand will perhaps fall on Opec. But if it threatens to raise prices, the industry may well turn to that low cost marginal source of supply, its inventories, ensuring that prices do not rise by much.

Carol Ferguson

Tidal barrages face snags on financing

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Irrevocable decisions on the future of several energy-producing tidal barrages around Britain are still at least three years away.

This means that they will not test the present Government's sceptical approach to public sector spending where the private sector offers an apparent option.

So it was to some extent easy this week for Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, to give sufficient cash help to boost investigations of tidal barrages on the Severn and the Mersey while also funding a fresh look at some smaller prospects including Morecambe Bay and the Wash.

But the arithmetic of the biggest of the barrage plans, which would throw a 10-mile causeway across the Severn at a cost of £5.5 billion, suggests that the rates of return on the sort of investment needed for such schemes are relatively modest, judged against what might be expected to attract unstinting private investment.

The Severn Tidal Power Group (STPG) estimates the rate of return at 7.4 per cent for a barrage between Cardiff and Weston-super-Mare. A less ambitious barrage further up river at Avonmouth is estimated to have a likely return of 7.7 per cent, although one of the difficulties with this siting could be extensive silting problems, one factor which led STPG to favour the Cardiff-Weston line.

The cost of the upper barrage (£1.1 billion) is only a fifth of the bigger one. On a Mersey barrage, which is smaller still at a projected cost of £450 million, the rate of return has been put at a minimum of 8 per cent.

The newly-launched Mersey Barrage Company has forecast that its project would be a money-maker. But it would expect substantial help from Economic Community sources at the construction stage.

The STPG is more guarded, suggesting that the rates of return on the Severn are too low for private sector financing without some Government support. Given the inherent risks allied to long lead times - it would be near the turn of the century before the Cardiff-Weston barrage would begin producing electricity for sale - private investors as the only source of finance would demand much higher rates of return, STPG argues.

Nobody is making a public estimate on what sort of rates of return that implies, but a good guess would seem to be between 12 and 14 per cent. It does not mean that rates need be as high as that for less ambitious schemes if only because the lead times are shorter. The Mersey barrage could be in operation by 1996 as plans now stand.

Clearly the funding problem might be tackled in several ways. There could be some form of underwriting by Government. There could be long-term contracts with the Central Electricity Generating Board, with Government backing, to offset risks of low oil prices cutting too far for comfort the going rate for buying in electricity.

Yet eventually, once the capital cost of setting up a barrage is paid off in 20 years or so, the running costs would be low and profits could run at several hundreds of millions pounds a year. As STPG has pointed out, a Cardiff-Weston barrage would be a large-scale national asset.

A recent inspection at the Rance barrage in Brittany, which has been in operation about 20 years, showed that its turbines were almost as good as when they were installed. But such a long timescale before equity investors could see a rich return is so far outside normal commercial experience, STPG pointed out.

What the STPG study makes clear is that it should be possible to produce electricity from a barrage at a cost equivalent to that of nuclear power stations, undercutting coal-fired station costs.

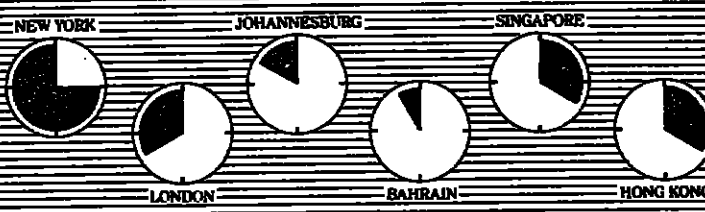
Various arguments are being put forward suggesting that the essential variability of tidally-produced power is a lesser problem than it has seemed.

When the government of the day eventually faces a decision on how to push barrage schemes forward there is a crucial factor beyond the attraction of a non-polluting source of power. Apart from the jobs arising during the construction phase there could be substantial job creation from barrage schemes because of tourism and other developments.

The Severn scheme could produce 30,000 long-term jobs, it is estimated. It would also provide a new road link between South Wales and England leading, it is claimed, to more industrial development.

BASE LENDING RATES	
ABN	10.00%
Adair & Company	10.00%
BOC	10.00%
Citibank Savings†	10.75%
Consolidated Credit	10.00%
Continental Trust	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co.	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%
† Mortgage Base Rate.	

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THE REDUCED RATE WILL BE 2.2% PER MONTH (EQUIVALENT TO AN APR 29.8%) IF PAYMENT IS MADE BY DIRECT DEBIT. IF PAYMENT IS MADE BY OTHER MEANS THE RATE WILL BE 2.5% PER MONTH (EQUIVALENT TO AN APR 34.4%).

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Confidence evaporates after dull performance on Wall Street

By Michael Clark

The London stock market started the day in a confident mood yesterday, showing investors the way forward and shaking off all the remaining ill-effects of this week's record-breaking fall. But confidence is a fragile commodity in the City these days and another dull performance on Wall Street during the first few hours of trading certainly left its mark.

Share prices may be in a nervous mood when trading resumes today.

Shareholders of Manganese Bronze look set for a disappointment. The sale of the London Taxis International subsidiary, rumours of which lifted the shares from 52p to a high of 78p this year, is off. Manganese is believed to have had a firm offer of £13 million, including the assumption of £6.5 million debt. Manganese is capitalised at only £11.8 million, but the chairman and chief executive Mr Dennis Poore apparently wanted more.

The FT index of 30 shares was looking a little tired after hours and closed below its best levels of the day. Having been 12.5 up at 4pm, its lead was reduced to 9.1 at 1.340.6 by the close. The broader-based FT-SE 100 was also looking anxious after seeing an earlier lead of 17.3 reduced to 12.1 at 1.626.7.

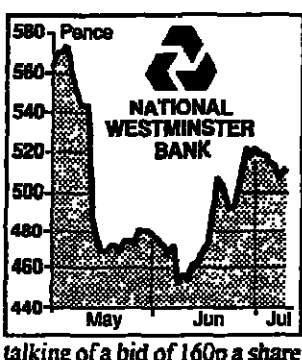
Dealers made the most of some better-than-expected figures from Thora EMI, which hit 51 1/2 at one stage, before analysts had a closer look at them and decided they were not all they were cracked up to be. Dealers claimed that the company had been given a rough ride at the analysts' meeting after the figures, showing a £60 million loss

below the line. The shares eventually finished only 20p higher at 497p.

Early attempts at a rally by Government securities ended in failure. The market is still clearly disappointed by the latest money supply figures that were published on Tuesday, scrapping all hopes of an imminent cut in base rates. The continued weakness of the US bond market is also affecting sentiment. By the close, prices were about £4 lower.

Among the leaders, British Telecom continued to rally following weakness earlier in the week on fears that a future nationalisation of the shares at a basic 130p. The group has now received news that its pricing structure is not to come under investigation by OfTel, the Government's watchdog for the telecommunications industry.

BT rose by 4p to 208p, after 212p. Some brokers claim the shares, which have fallen 30 per cent in recent weeks, are good value at these levels. The property sector continues to buzz with speculation that a large bid is on the way. Yesterday, the speculators' money was resting on Property Holdings Investment Trust, up 8p at 145p. Marketmen are



580 Pence
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May Jun Jul
NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK

talked of a bid of 160p a share from rival Greycoat Properties, unchanged at 212p. That would value PHIT at £127 million.

Storehouse, formed by the merger of British Home Stores and Habitat Mothercare, was a firm market 7p up at 333p. Last night, the group opened its latest Mothercare store in London's Knightsbridge and invited a number of retail analysts to attend. Some obviously thought they might have something interesting to say.

Bid hopes lifted Bestobell by 15p to 50p. There is growing speculation that BTR's 24 per cent stake may soon be up for grabs and that full bid for Bestobell will follow.

The big four high street clearing banks enjoyed their best performance in weeks as investors came in for the interim-

dividend season. There is also talk that a bullish broker's circular may be on the way.

The whole sector has been under a cloud recently following the £700 million-plus rights issue from National Westminster in May. But now that has been absorbed by the market with only the minimum of blood letting, investors are starting to take a more favourable view towards the sector.

Barclays rose by 10p to 529p, after 532p, Midland 7p to 549p, after 552p, and National Westminster 7p to 519p. Lloyds stood out with a leap of 22p to 419p, still battling for control of Standard Chartered ahead of Saturday's closing date.

The Hong Kong-based entrepreneur, Sir Yue-Kong Pao has announced that he has acquired 8.41 million shares in Standard Chartered, or 5.4 per cent of the total. This follows Wednesday's news that his rival, the Malaysian-based businessman Tan Sri Khoo, had built up a stake of 5.04 per cent and is throwing his weight behind the Standard board.

Marketmen are starting to take the view that Lloyds' bid will fail. Standard shares lost ground after Lloyds' broker, Cazenove, withdrew from the

market on Wednesday night. The shares finished 28p lower at 774p.

In drinks, Guinness enjoyed a satisfying 10p rise to 343p after announcing that it planned to buy back some of its own shares for cancellation following this year's successful offer for Distillers.

It is paying £133.8 million for the 42.04 million shares, equivalent to 318p per Guinness share, allotted to Greatrand - a private holding company set up by

Oliver Resources, the USM-quoted exploration company, fell 1p to a new low of 9p yesterday, but there could be good news in the pipeline. Drilling in the Celtic Sea near Offshore Island on block 50/3, where Oliver has a 15 per cent stake, is going well. Several strikes have been made nearby and the operator Enterprise remains optimistic.

Guinness and Morgan Grenfell - and another £135.2 million, equivalent to 278p a share, for the 48.58 million shares bought by Morgan Grenfell on behalf of Guinness during the Distillers bid battle.

Among the smaller brewers, Belhaven Brewery rose by 3p to equal their year's high of 62p after learning that Mr Nazim Virani, the chairman of the privately-owned hotel and leisure company, Virani Group UK, had sold 4 million Belhaven shares (15.58 per cent) to Establisment Novedil, a Geneva-based company owned by the powerful Shohet family. This reduces Virani Group's holding in Belhaven to 2.32 million shares, or 9.06 per cent of the capital.

The rest of the brewers enjoyed early selective support, but failed to hold their best levels of the day. Allied firming 2p to 343p, after 345p, Bass 7p to 775p and Scottish & Newcastle 2p to 199p, after 201p. Whitbread rose an early lead to end 3p higher on the day at 290p, while Grand Metropolitan lost 5p at 393p.

In the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of Midland Mart, the livestock market operator, leapt 38p to 183p after receiving an agreed bid of £6.8 million from Oyston, £3.3 million remains. Investors' shares, which were divided into "master shares" of £2,500 each, are now valued in the report at £785.92.

Of course, investors did qualify for tax relief of up to 75 per cent of their investment and the managers con-

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Pound casts shadows over interest rates

It is a testing time for those who believe that the sterling exchange rate against the currencies of the European Monetary System is an important element in the assessment of monetary conditions. Yesterday the pound fell below DM3.30, thought of by many as the lower limit of sterling's unofficial EMS band.

And, taken in combination with Tuesday's better, but still very bad, money supply figures, this latest development could have nasty consequences.

Inflation figures, due today, should show a rate, measured by the retail prices index, of around 2.5 per cent last month. Other things being equal, interest rates might follow inflation down, but they are not equal. This new and worrying indicator of monetary conditions could "fix" interest rates at present levels, or worse.

Before considering this possibility it is important to bear in mind what "shadowing the EMS" means. The dollar, undergoing its own correction, is clearly not a suitable touchstone for British monetary policy. A rise in the pound against the dollar, or a fall as happened yesterday, says nothing about the tightness or otherwise of policy here.

The dollar's value is clearly a major influence on the sterling index: what was needed was a measure of the

pound's average value excluding the dollar. This meant, more or less, the EMS currencies or, in shorthand, the sterling-mark exchange rate.

So is yesterday's fall to DM3.29 a sign that all that liquidity sloshing around the system has begun to leave for the continent for its summer holiday? Perhaps, but there is an additional complicating factor.

With Brent crude below \$10 a barrel, the oil price - ignored for many months - is again news for the financial markets. And the sterling-mark exchange rate has shown itself highly sensitive to oil prices, at least during those periods when the foreign exchange dealers take note of what their counterparts on the Rotterdam spot market are doing.

Even if oil temporarily consigns the pound's value against the EMS currencies to the file of difficult-to-interpret monetary indicators, the gilt market and the money markets have now more or less given up on lower base rates.

Whether it was the rejection of a discount rate cut by Bank of Japan governor Satoshi Sumita, or the pound's increasingly wobbly appearance, traders decided yesterday afternoon that, for the time being, the game was up.

It is a view, as things stand, with which it is hard to quarrel.

Mourning becomes Electra

Investors in the Electra Risk Capital fund said yesterday that they were "bitterly resigned" after the annual meeting where it was revealed that two-thirds of the value of their investment had been lost.

The fund was launched in 1981 by Electra Risk Capital, a subsidiary of the Electra Investment Trust, under the terms of the Business Start-Up Scheme which allowed investors tax relief on investment in certain unquoted companies.

The half-year report to June 27, 1986, published yesterday, shows that of the 32 unquoted companies invested in by the fund, only 12 are still trading. The remainder have generally been sold for nominal amounts or have gone into liquidation.

This means that of the total of £8.68 million invested by Electra Risk Capital, whose board earlier included Sir Terence Conran, chairman of Storehouse, and Robert Gavron, chairman of the St Ives Group, only £3.3 million remains. Investors' shares, which were divided into "master shares" of £2,500 each, are now valued in the report at £785.92.

Of course, investors did qualify for tax relief of up to 75 per cent of their investment and the managers con-

sider that there are a couple of potential stars left in the 12 remaining companies. Nevertheless, one is left wondering how, with Electra's reputation for investment in unquoted companies - and with such blue chip names on the board - so many wrong judgements were made.

Some investors voiced their dissatisfaction after yesterday's meeting with the amount of information provided by the managers - with just cause. The report provides far too little historical information, but it cannot disguise the fact that the second fund launched by Electra invested in a number of the doomed companies in the first fund.

Michael Stoddart, the chairman of Electra Management, which now manages the Electra funds, denies that the second fund was used to prop up ailing companies. He said: "We had a genuine belief that with additional capital they would have gone well."

For the record, both Electra funds invested a total of £360,000 in a company called Zealand Frozen Products, which had been rejected by other venture capitalists who had reservations about the management. The investment has been sold for about £23,000.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Val
Sep 86	90.45	90.46	90.23	90.34	4222
Dec 86	90.58	90.68	90.45	90.55	1072
Mar 87	90.52	90.50	90.44	90.55	73
Jun 87	90.42	90.42	90.40	90.22	0
Sep 87	N/T	N/T	N/T	90.22	0
Dec 87	N/T	N/T	N/T	90.04	0

Previous day's total open interest: 15716

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Val
Sep 86	93.55	93.55	93.47	93.53	4380
Dec 86	93.47	93.48	93.39	93.45	866
Mar 87	93.27	93.27	93.27	93.27	89
Jun 87	93.02	93.02	92.97	92.97	48

Previous day's total open interest: 18155

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
July 18	July 18	Oct 15	Nov 17
July 21	Aug 1	Oct 23	Nov 17
Aug 1	Aug 1	Nov 6	Nov 17

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series	Call	Put	Call	Put
Milred Lyons (343)	300 50 80 72 1 4 6	380 20 40 50 4 13 17	380 20 40 50 4 13 17	380 20 40 50 4 13 17
BP (566)	500 70 80 85 1 5 10	500 20 30 35 4 11 16	500 20 30 35 4 11 16	500 20 30 35 4 11 16
Cors Gold (447)	420 40 60 70 3 16 22	420 40 60 70 3 16 22	420 40 60 70 3 16 22	420 40 60 70 3 16 22
Courtauld (233)	280 19 32 35 3 8 11	300 4 12 15 10 18 23	300 4 12 15 10 18 23	300 4 12 15 10 18 23
Com Union (317)	300 19 32 41 3 9 13	330 2 18 28 16 23 24	330 2 18 28 16 23 24	330 2 18 28 16 23 24
Cable & Wire (633)	600 100 125 140 1 19 30	600 17 43 65 17 49 59	600 17 43 65 17 49 59	600 17 43 65 17 49 59
Distillers (750)	600 155 170 180 1 2 10	600 55 80 90 4 25 31	600 55 80 90 4 25 31	600 55 80 90 4 25 31
DEC (202)	180 24 34 41 1 4 8	200 2 12 18 20 23 28	200 2 12 18 20 23 28	200 2 12 18 20 23 28
Grand Met (383)	320 70 80 100 1 3 12	350 42 53 63 1 15 21	350 42 53 63 1 15 21	350 42 53 63 1 15 21
ICI (378)	950 42 64 82 3 5 10	950 10 23 38 35 52 65	950 10 23 38 35 52 65	950 10 23 38 35 52 65
Land Sec (342)	300 44 55 63 1 3 5	300 16 34 48 21 25 28	300 16 34 48 21 25 28	300 16 34 48 21 25 28
Merks & Spen (734)	180 26 33 41 1 3 7	200 1 10 17 18 21 23	200 1 10 17 18 21 23	200 1 10 17 18 21 23
Shell Trans (778)	600 78 96 113 1 16 19	600 7 30 50 28 48 53	600 7 30 50 28 48 53	600 7 30 50 28 48 53
Triglar House (287)	280 12 26 33 4 11 14	300 3 13 21 24 26 28	300 3 13 21 24 26 28	300 3 13 21 24 26 28

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
N York 1.5161-1.5310	0.44-0.45	0.44-0.45	0.44-0.45
London 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Amst 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Paris 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Frankfurt 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Brussels 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Copenhagen 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Dublin 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Geneva 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Hong Kong 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
India 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Japan 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Malaysia 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Philippines 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Singapore 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Taiwan 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
Thailand 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39
USA 1.0245-1.0292	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39	0.38-0.39

OTHER STERLING RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Argentina	1.3481-1.3486	Indonesia	1.3895-1.3898
Australia	0.5745-0.5748	Japan	2.1670-2.1680
Brazil	0.2083-0.2086	Malaysia	2.1715-2.1725
Canada	0.6320-0.6320	Norway	7.1025-7.1075
Denmark	0.6750-0.6750	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
France	7.6760-7.6760	Switzerland	2.4475-2.4485
Germany	2.1205-2.1205	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Greece	11.8515-11.8515	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
Hong Kong	11.8515-11.8515	USA	1.9025-1.9035
India	18.05-18.05	West Germany	2.1735-2.1745
Indonesia	1.3895-1.3898	Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750
Japan	2.1670-2.1680	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
Malaysia	2.1715-2.1725	Switzerland	2.4475-2.4485
Norway	7.1025-7.1075	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Sweden	7.4825-7.4875	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
Switzerland	2.4475-2.4485	USA	1.9025-1.9035
Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780	West Germany	2.1735-2.1745
Thailand	6.9825-6.9875	Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750
USA	1.9025-1.9035	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
West Germany	2.1735-2.1745	Switzerland	2.4475-2.4485
Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Sweden	7.4825-7.4875	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
USA	1.9025-1.9035	USA	1.9025-1.9035
West Germany	2.1735-2.1745	West Germany	2.1735-2.1745
Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750	Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750
Sweden	7.4825-7.4875	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Thailand	6.9825-6.9875	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
USA	1.9025-1.9035	USA	1.9025-1.9035
West Germany	2.1735-2.1745	West Germany	2.1735-2.1745
Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750	Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750
Sweden	7.4825-7.4875	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Thailand	6.9825-6.9875	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
USA	1.9025-1.9035	USA	1.9025-1.9035
West Germany	2.1735-2.1745	West Germany	2.1735-2.1745
Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750	Switzerland	1.7740-1.7750
Sweden	7.4825-7.4875	Sweden	7.4825-7.4875
Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780	Taiwan	1.3770-1.3780
Thailand	6.9825-6.9875	Thailand	6.9825-6.9875
USA	1.9025-1.9035	USA	1.9025-1.9035
West Germany</			

Main table of Unit Trusts with columns for Bid, Offer, Change, Yield, and various fund names like Abbey Unit Managers, Allied Dunbar Unit Trusts, and many others.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E ratio.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E ratio.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of Financial Trusts with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E ratio.

COMMODITIES

Table of Commodities with columns for High, Low, Company, Price, Change, Yield, and P/E ratio.

Vertical advertisement for Pacific Gold and other financial services, including 'BANKS DISCOUNT' and 'FIFTEEN YEARS'.

A SPECIAL REPORT ON JAPAN

Triumph, then the doubts

Japan is a country which prizes conformity among ordinary mortals. Its politicians like to be more individual. And in Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone it seems to have found an individual performer par excellence.

He is a new phenomenon in Japanese politics: an image politician who knows how to exploit his strengths and who, for the moment, seems immune from the effects of his weaknesses.

His leadership of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to an overwhelming majority in the general elections this week was a remarkable triumph for a Prime Minister whose domestic political record has been less happy than that in foreign affairs.

The appearance of the so-called "new leaders" campaigning hard to improve their chances of succeeding Mr Nakasone undoubtedly

helped the party overall. But the election was largely a referendum on the conduct of the LDP and of its leader over the period since he became Prime Minister in 1982.

Even if the ruling party had not wished it thus, the opposition parties, and particularly Mr Masashi Ishibashi of the Socialist Party, made Mr Nakasone an election issue by constant references to the way the elections were called and his disbelief of Mr Nakasone's claims that he would not increase taxes after the election.

Less than a week before the double elections were announced it looked as though Mr Nakasone would not only

have to give up what turned out to be an inspired idea but could not expect to extend his term of office as Prime Minister beyond October. Even as the campaign began, the opposition were calling him a liar for having engineered the double poll while giving the impression he had no such intention. The charges of duplicity seemed to be finding their mark on a politician who already had a reputation as a "weathervane".

His consistently high standing with the public allowed him to get away with a lot that his rivals could not, but no one predicted the scale of the party's electoral triumph.

In any Western democracy Mr Nakasone would now be assured of another term as Prime Minister, with a grateful party willing to give him almost anything he asked. But Japanese politics is not that simple and the election has, if anything, strengthened the position of at least one of his rivals for the prime ministership.

The election brought back into the fold many LDP members who failed at the last election, many who owe their support to the Tanaka faction. Though Mr Kakuei Tanaka played no immediate role in the election after his stroke last year, his faction, money and influence are still the most formidable in the party. The Tanaka faction added another 20 members, most of whom will be supporting Mr Noboru Takeshita, the finance minister, to take over the prime ministership.

Mr Nakasone's own faction increased from 49 to 60 but, though Mr Tanaka was his original patron in acquiring the LDP leadership, he cannot count on much support from that quarter now, unless there



Victory smile: Yasuhiro Nakasone dots the eye of a lucky daruma doll after his party's biggest-ever election win. The Liberal Democrats took 304 of 512 seats in the Lower House and 74 of 126 in the Upper House

is an overwhelming groundswell in the party for his continuance in office. If he is to stay, he must enlist support from the other leading factions within the party. These are led by two former Prime Ministers, Mr Zenko Suzuki and Mr Takeo Fukuda, and Mr Toshio Komoto.

Mr Suzuki and Mr Fukuda can muster 59 and 56 supporters respectively. Both have their own factional candidates for the premiership and neither has any great love for Mr Nakasone.

Will they throw their support behind Mr Nakasone for an extension of his term or a change in the party rules to allow him a third term?

Mr Suzuki would like to see his protégé, the former foreign minister, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, as Prime Minister and Mr Fukuda has his money on the present foreign minister, Mr Shintaro Abe. In order for Mr Nakasone to win an extension or a third term, significant support must come

from the Suzuki and Fukuda factions. If there is a third term for Mr Nakasone, it will signal what the public response to him is already indicating: that the Japanese public at least is

happy with a forceful, decisive leader who will reflect the country's standing in the world. The record shows that a strong Japanese leader is usually followed by a weaker, less decisive one but when the public went to the polls they knew that the Nakasone era could last only until October according to the present rules, and therefore the resounding vote of support for Mr Nakasone seems to indicate that the public at large wants more of the same.

Whether the bureaucracy and the rest of the party sees it the same way is another question. Mr Nakasone is the sort of Japanese leader with whom

foreign nations feel they can deal: he tells them what they want to hear and gives every impression of being determined to carry out his promises. But it is precisely his predilection for making promises over the heads of the bureaucracy and even members of his own party which makes him less popular with some at home.

Because of this, Mr Nakasone has built up a fund of resentment against him in certain quarters, resentment that may now make his path to an extension or a third term difficult, if not impossible. For many people's taste Mr Nakasone is already too sure of himself, already too prompt to claim a party success as his own. If he wants a third term he must tread carefully.

Mr Nakasone's appeal to the public from the campaign trail that he is allowed to finish his programme of reform will probably provide the avenue for the continuation of his tenure. This autumn the Diet (parliament) must tackle its most complex

piece of legislation for some time: a bill to provide for the privatization of the Japanese National Railways.

This is likely to be a contentious piece of lawmaking which most probably will last until at least October, when Mr Nakasone's term of office as party president expires. If the party finds itself in the middle of bargaining on this issue it would not be a propitious time to be diverted into a search for a new leader of the party, especially if there is no paramourly obvious successor.

In that case there will be a strong argument for the extension of Mr Nakasone's term at least until the end of the year and most probably beyond that. By that time the need for the LDP to increase taxes may become so pressing that the other contenders may be only too happy to leave such a distasteful task to a man who seems to be able to dose the electorate with strong medicine and get away with it.

David Watts

Economic miracle in need of bad habits

This year is turning out to be a watershed for the Japanese economy. In the last few months there has been a growing realization that radical changes have to take place if it is to continue on the path of rapid expansion.

The phenomenal success of export-led growth was good while it lasted. But, faced with the threat of a brick wall of American protectionism, Japan has started to change.

In April, the special commission on the economy appointed by Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, produced its report. The group, under the chairmanship of Haruo Maekawa, former governor of the Bank of Japan, called for the introduction of some westerner bad habits in Japan, including shorter working hours and longer holidays, to increase spending on leisure.

This was part of what the commission described as the need for "a historical transformation in traditional policies on economic management and the nation's lifestyle." That transformation has as its main goal the reduction of the enormous current surplus, estimated by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development to reach a record \$76.5 billion (about \$51 billion) this year, compared with \$49 billion in 1985.

The commission recommended a series of measures to stimulate domestic demand, including tax incentives for home-building and non-residential property construction; reforming the system of tax relief on small savings, the *maruyari*, which helps produce a high ratio of saving to income in Japan; and boosting public spending on the infrastructure.

And, to ensure that a significant proportion of this extra domestic demand goes into imports, the commission proposed positive discrimination in their favour, including the

promotion of a more efficient distribution system within Japan and stricter penalties against companies unfairly keeping out imports.

The Maekawa report was followed the next day by what has become a familiar feature in Japan during the last two years - economic packages which simultaneously provide a small boost to the economy, and launch some new programme to encourage imports.

However, because Mr Nakasone and Noboru Takeshita, his finance minister, are constrained by the target of reducing reliance on so-called deficit-financing bonds by 1990, the boost to the economy has been small.

The drop in world oil prices, while on the face of it a straightforward boon for Japan, has not been generally welcomed. It has added to the already embarrassingly large trade surplus and, in the view of some local experts, threatens to reverse the process of reducing reliance on imported oil.

The programme of producing a gradual shift in the economy away from export reliance has, to a great extent, been usurped by the yen's sharp rise since last year. The yen's dollar exchange rate, 250 last year, has fallen as low as 160 during the past few weeks, an appreciation of more than 55 per cent.

The pain has been considerable, particularly for small and medium-sized companies which, unlike their bigger brothers, cannot easily absorb a plunge in export orders and profitability. At the end of May the government announced special assistance for small and medium-sized export businesses.

The difficulty is that the drop in exports, in both volume and yen terms, is not coming through in the trade figures. Because Japan's trade is denominated, both in practice

Continued next page, col. 4

Scepticism about the PM's claims

helped the party overall. But the election was largely a referendum on the conduct of the LDP and of its leader over the period since he became Prime Minister in 1982.

Even if the ruling party had not wished it thus, the opposition parties, and particularly Mr Masashi Ishibashi of the Socialist Party, made Mr Nakasone an election issue by constant references to the way the elections were called and his disbelief of Mr Nakasone's claims that he would not increase taxes after the election.

Less than a week before the double elections were announced it looked as though Mr Nakasone would not only

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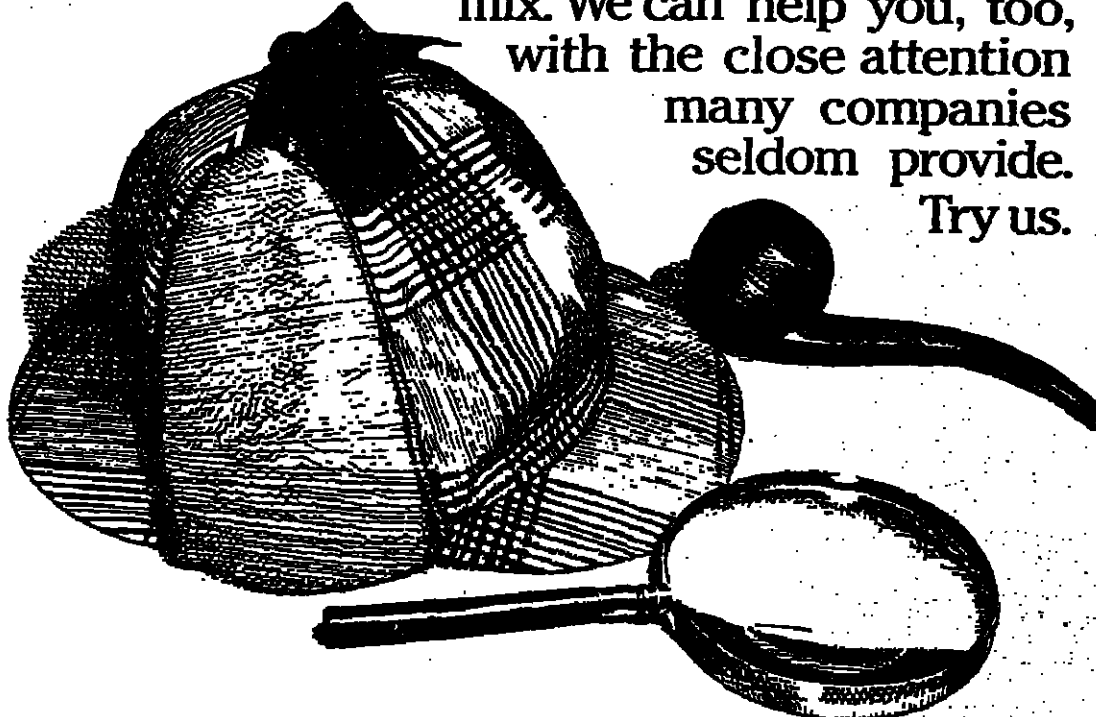
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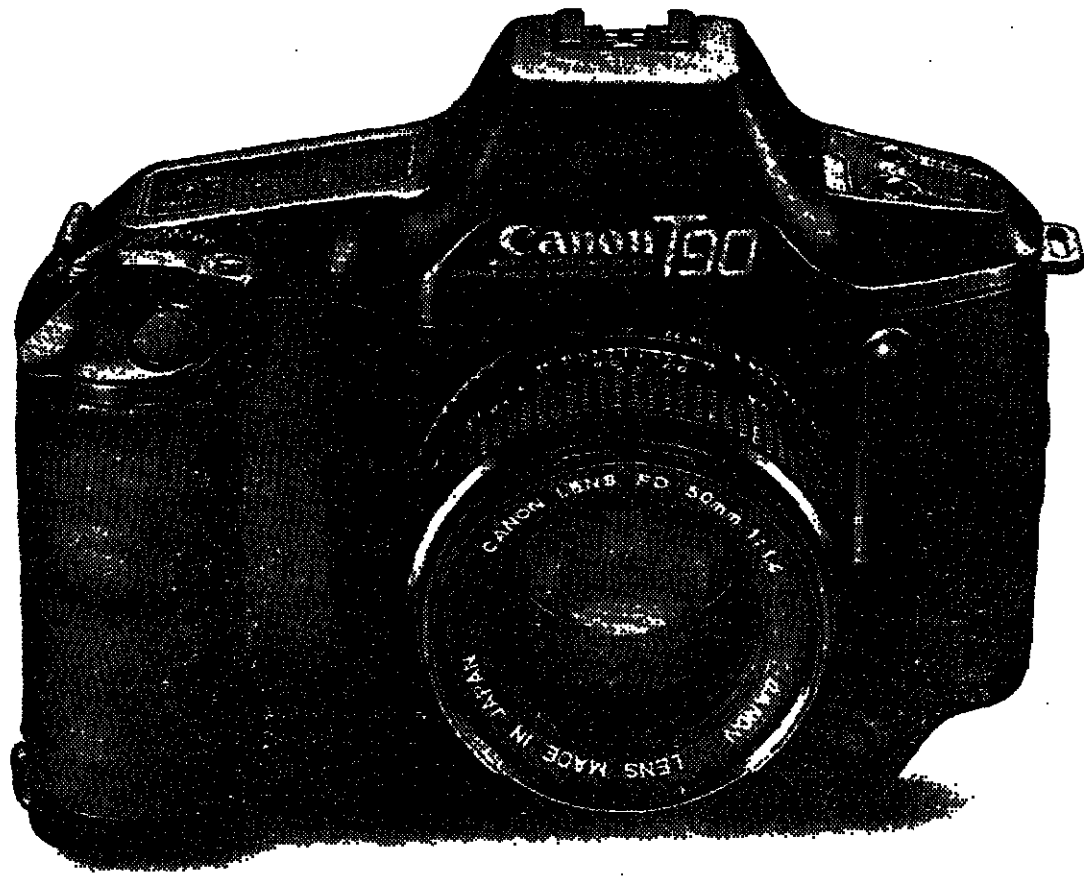
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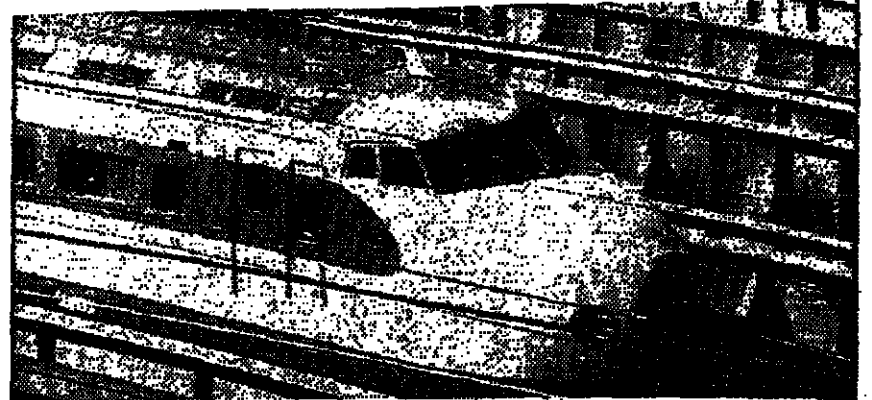
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JAPAN/3

FOCUS

A switch to the private track



The Shinkansen, or bullet train, pride of Japanese National Railways, its profits may be used to cover losses of other companies after the JNR split-up

Denationalization of public corporations in Japan stems from the need to reduce a long-term national debt of 168,300 billion yen (about \$673 billion), the equivalent of more than 50 per cent of gross national product.

The move is part of a broad programme of administrative reform initiated in 1981 and aimed at diminishing the role of government and thereby its debt.

The three main corporations are Nippon Telegraph & Telephone (NTT), Japanese National Railways (JNR) and Japan Tobacco (JT), which also handles the salt monopoly. In addition, the government intends to sell its minority share in Japan Air Lines (JAL).

● Nippon Telegraph & Telephone

NTT changed from public corporation to joint stock company and lost its telecommunications monopoly on April 1, 1985. However, the government remains the sole owner. It is expected to sell half its stake over five years from this autumn but for security reasons will not reduce its holding below one third.

Foreigners will not be able to bid but this ruling may be amended at the end of the decade.

Though still state-owned, NTT can raise funds without government permis-

Foreigners not able to bid

sion and its employees have the right to negotiate wages and go on strike.

Since last April it has invested in more than 40 new projects, including a 50-50 joint venture with IBM Japan in value added network (VAN) services.

The new NTT's revenue for the first year of operation was 5,100 billion yen (about \$20.4 billion) and pre-tax profit 316 billion yen. This is considered a good basis from which to make an initial offering of shares on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The work force has been cut by 26,000, to 304,000, since 1980 and the management hopes to trim it by at least 5,000 a year in the near future. At the same time it will invest in new equipment such as unstaffed telephone exchanges. These changes are designed to make NTT better able to face competition.

● Japanese National Railways

Admired for its punctuality and engineering skills, JNR has been astoundingly profligate in its financial dealings. Its

accumulated debt was more than 23,000 billion yen (\$92 billion) at the end of fiscal 1985.

In clearing it, the government is following the recommendations of a committee which reported last year. These are to split JNR into eight companies, three on Honshu and one each on Hokkaido, Shikoku and Kyushu, one to run the Shinkansen or "bullet train" services and one to handle freight.

By that time total JNR debt will amount to 37,300 billion yen, the big jump due to the inclusion of latent liabilities such as the cost of pensions and projects such as the Seikan tunnel between Honshu and Hokkaido and the bridges across the Inland Sea.

According to Professor Hiroshi Kato, a member of the reform committee, the new companies, helped by profits from the Shinkansen operations, will pay off 14,200 billion yen of this total. The old JNR, which will remain in existence after next March, will shoulder 23,100 billion yen, 16,700 billion yen of which will be written off by the government and 5,800 billion yen met by the sale of land.

Professor Kato believes that the new companies can be profitable from the first year of operation but this will depend on cuts in the work force, using Shinkansen profits to cover losses elsewhere, and setting up a 1,000 billion yen fund to subsidize railways in the three outlying islands. The plan is to sell the companies as they become profitable.

In 1980 JNR had 420,000 employees. Today the figure is about 277,000 but the reform plan says that only 183,000 will be needed by the new companies.

Of the surplus, 41,000 will be kept on in the old JNR for three years, during which they will be retrained and, it is hoped, found alternative employment. Thirty-one thousand jobs will go through natural wastage and 20,000 workers will be asked to take voluntary redundancy.

● Japan Tobacco

Like NTT, Japan Tobacco became a joint stock company on April 1 last year and is still 100 per cent government-owned. The reason for its change of status was more political than financial; foreign, particularly United States, companies were urging the government to open up the domestic cigarette market.

These companies can now set up their own distribution networks in Japan but

the manufacture of cigarettes remains a JT monopoly.

With tobacco sales of more than 2,686 billion yen in fiscal 1985, JT held 97.6 of a rather flat domestic market. However, foreign companies' turnover is rising at about 15 per cent a year.

No timetable for privatization has been fixed.

● Japan Air Lines

Moves to sell off the government's 34.5 per cent stake have accelerated since the crash of a JAL domestic flight last August with the loss of 520 lives. Since that disaster the whole of the top management has been replaced and the structure of the company changed. JAL shares could start to come on to the market next summer.

Largely as a result of the crash, JAL recorded an after-tax loss of 6.7 billion yen in the year ending March 31, 1986. Total revenue, of 823.9 billion yen, was down 0.4 per cent, that from domestic passengers, 13.4 per cent. The company expects to make a small profit in fiscal 1986.

The prelude to its becoming a wholly private concern comes at a time of great changes in Japanese aviation. Under the

ANA has its eye on a London route

old policy JAL was assigned international routes and domestic ones between Tokyo, Osaka, Sapporo, Fukuoka and Naha, and All Nippon Airways and Tokai Domestic Airlines flew domestic routes.

Now, ANA has started international flights - to Guam in March and to Los Angeles and Washington later this month. It has its eye on the China and London routes, the latter in return for non-stop flights by British Caledonian to Tokyo. In addition, Nippon Cargo Airlines, in which ANA is the main shareholder, started flights to San Francisco and New York last year.

In return for ANA's move overseas, JAL is being permitted to start domestic flights between Tokyo and Kagoshima later this month and between Nagoya and Fukuoka and Tokyo and Komatsu in October. In the short term, it aims to raise its share of the domestic market from 20 to 30 per cent.

Simon Scott Plummer

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Hitachi's wide-ranging technologies in communication (from left to right): optical fibers, optical IC, advanced telephone exchange system, and satellite communication.

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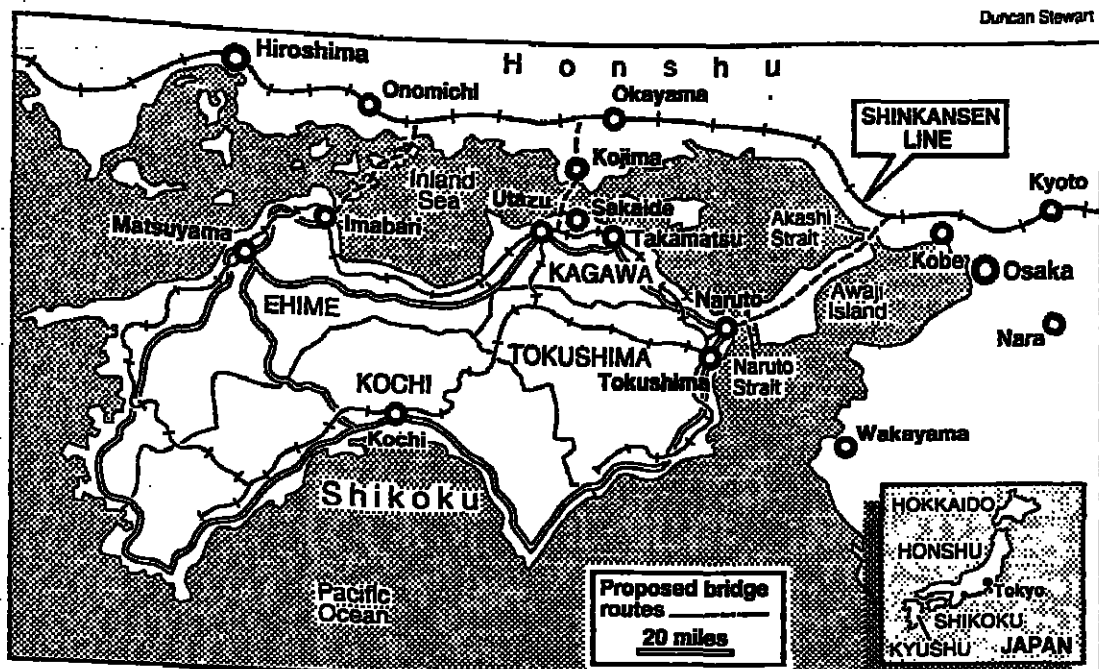
We link technology to human needs. We believe that Hitachi's advanced technologies will result in systems and products that are functionally sophisticated but easy to use. Our goal in communications—and transportation, energy and consumer electronics as well—is to build products and systems that will improve the quality of life the world around.



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Good mornin
Not bad than
Today it is fin
tomorrow it
The donkey
a unicycle.
But enough
I would like
printer pieas
The printers
reliable, are
No wonder
world prints
No, I did no
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Well,
Epson (U.K.) Limited.

مركز الأبحاث

FOCUS



An end to the isolation

The smallest of Japan's four main islands, Shikoku is also the least known. Despite its proximity to the great cities of western Honshu it has remained a backwater, popular with tourists for its festivals and with pilgrims for its Buddhist temples.

Its isolation is about to be ended by the building of bridges across the Inland Sea to Honshu, Kyushu and Hokkaido have already been linked to the main island, the first by three tunnels and a bridge and the second by the world's longest undersea tunnel.

Shikoku is due to follow suit in 1988 with the opening of a chain of bridges which hop from island to island between Kojima and Sakai (see map). Two further routes, one to the east via Awaji Island, the other to the west, are also under construction. The total cost, at 1982 prices, is estimated at 3,360 billion yen (about £13.44 billion).

Work on the middle route, which measures nearly six miles from shore to shore, is 75 per cent done. Cables strung between huge steel towers loop across the sea awaiting the attachment of a double-deck truss, with a four-lane road above and a two-track railway beneath.

How will completion of the Kojima-Sakai route affect Shikoku and, in particular, Kagawa prefecture? Tadao Maekawa, the governor, said it would more than halve, to about 50 minutes, the journey between Takamatsu and Okayama on Honshu. The prefecture would be able to deliver its fish, fruit and vegetables more rapidly to the big cities on the

main island and in return would hope to attract high-tech investment and tourists.

Though the Kojima-Sakai route will make the initial impact on Shikoku, in the longer term the eastern route is expected to have a greater effect because of the direct link it will provide with Kobe, Osaka and Kyoto. Only two suspension bridges are needed between Kobe and Naruto, but both are enormous. The southern one, with an 876-metre central span over the Naruto Strait, was opened last year and in April work began on its northern partner, across the Akashi Strait. On completion in 1998, it will have

Objections from ferry companies

the longest central span — 1,780 metres — of any suspension bridge in the world, a record held by the 1,410-metre Humber Bridge.

Initially this will be a road link only but there is talk of either digging a railway tunnel under the Akashi Strait or bringing it across from Wakayama prefecture to the east, then taking it over the Naruto bridge, which already has a spare deck for trains.

Shinzo Miki, governor of Tokushima, expects many companies to invest in the prefecture, thus reducing migration. In the other direction, Tokushima will be able to get its agricultural produce more quickly to Osaka and Kobe.

On the western route, between Onomichi and Imabari, two bridges have been completed and two are being built. The entire

route, which will have six bridges, is due to open early in the next century.

Though the local governments welcome the ending of Shikoku's isolation, not everyone is so enthusiastic. Foremost among the objectors are the ferry companies which ply the Inland Sea. Takamatsu is the main departure point on Shikoku for the ferries and the opening of the Kojima-Sakai bridges will lead to the loss of 800 jobs. Both Kagawa and Okayama, on the opposite shore in Honshu, are paying compensation to the ferry operators and trying to find them other jobs. Compensation has also been paid to fishermen whose grounds are being disturbed and polluted by construction work.

Finally, there are the 800 people who live on three of the small islands across which the Kojima-Sakai route passes. The inhabitants of two, Iwakuro and Hitsuishi, live from fishing and those of the third, Yoshima, have had their livelihood removed because the bridge has swallowed up a granite quarry.

The benefit, or otherwise, of the bridges is likely to spread only slowly inland from Takamatsu and Tokushima because of the lack of good roads. The plan is to have eventually a motorway network in the shape of a figure of eight across the island. However, officials in Takamatsu said that because of the difficulty in acquiring land from the farmers it would be 10-20 years before the Tokushima-Takamatsu and Tokushima-Kochi legs were opened.

SSP

Emotion fuels the mighty ad industry

As an advertising market Japan is second in size only to the United States, although expenditure remains a fraction of that across the Pacific. In 1985 it came to nearly 3,000 billion yen (about £12 billion), with 35.2 per cent going to television and 28.7 per cent to newspapers. However, this impressive total cannot hide the fact that growth of the industry has slowed since 1980.

Last year it recorded the lowest rise (2.3 per cent) since 1965. The prospects for 1986 are not much better. The domestic market has reached saturation point and the agencies now face the challenge of stimulating demand in a way that was unnecessary before.

Will this lead to a change in their methods of doing business? To answer that one must look at some of the peculiarities of the Japanese advertising industry.

First, advertisements tend to be less strident than in the West. There is more concern for creating an image than in making a hard sell, for entertaining rather than informing.

The Japanese agencies explain this approach by saying that they rely on intuition rather than logic. In the West the product is the core and emotion is wrapped round it; in Japan the reverse is true.

Norman MacMaster, head of J. Walter Thompson in Tokyo, believes that the reason for the

two-fifths of the market, did less than 10 per cent of their business overseas. Compare this, at the other end of the scale, with McCann-Erikson, which gets more than 70 per cent of its billings outside the US.

Growth abroad is far higher than that in Japan. Dentsu's overall billings rose by only 1.2 per cent in 1985 (to \$3.5 billion). But those of its joint venture in foreign markets with the American agency Young & Rubicam were up by nearly 16 per cent and are expected to climb nearly 40 per cent this year.

Hakuhodo's domestic growth in 1985 was 4.6 per cent, twice the national average. But overseas, where it is affiliated with SSC&B:Lintas, it was more than 30 per cent. The company plans to get 10 per cent of its billings — which totalled \$1.3 billion in 1985 — from abroad in three years time.

Until the merger earlier this year of three American agencies, Doyle Dane Bernbach, BBDO and Needham Harper, Dentsu was the largest in the world in terms of billings — that is, the value of the advertisements placed through it. However, it lagged behind Young & Rubicam, Saatchi & Saatchi and Ogilvy in gross income.

Whereas in the West an agency tends to have an exclusive agreement with an advertiser at a fixed commission, Japanese agencies will often take less commission, particularly when they are competing for new business. Hakuhodo said that while Western agencies tended to concentrate on the more profitable parts of the business their Japanese counterparts would take on less lucrative work such as product development and public relations. Now that growth is down, these sort of services may well be reduced.

Having built up their business through placing ads on television and in the press, the Japanese agencies have recently moved into non-mass media activities such as sales promotions, public relations and organizing cultural and sporting events.

They are also investing in new media such as cable television, videotex, teletext, satellite broadcasting and high definition television. However, these are more of an insurance policy for the future than an immediate source of revenue. For instance, the next



Focus of attention: Japanese companies spend £12 billion a year wooing consumers with advertisements

broadcasting satellite is not due to be launched until 1990.

If the Japanese way of selling is different from that of the West, so is the relationship between advertiser and agency. The Western model is that of a long-lasting

partnership where the two sides together manage a brand.

In Japan, advertisers buy *à la carte*, placing the creative contract for a product here and the media one there. According to Max Cusnir, who runs McCann-Erikson in Tokyo, rarely is an agency given complete responsibility for a brand and never the whole of a company's account.

Like wise, one Japanese agency will handle business from competing clients — for instance, the car makers Toyota and Nissan or the consumer electronics companies Matsushita and Toshiba. This would not happen in the West.

On the subject of creative work, the big agencies appear to be embarrassed by the sub-contracting they do to freelancers. Both Dentsu and Hakuhodo said that all such work was done in-house. This assertion was contradicted by Satoshi Watanabe of the Japan Advertising Federation and by the heads of the two biggest foreign agencies in Japan.

One wonders how long it will be — unless the likes of Dentsu and Hakuhodo strengthen their creative departments — before advertisers try to deal with freelancers direct.

SSP

Style generally takes precedence

differences is structural rather than ethnic.

He points out that for years Japanese agencies simply bought up TV time and sold it to eager advertisers, rather than creating ads themselves. Even today they subcontract much creative work to freelancers. In addition, they are seen just as suppliers and often not shown the market research done by their clients. The result is that style takes precedence over substance.

Mr MacMaster says that the best Japanese advertising, as in the West, has both substance and style. Economic recession may induce more companies to follow this lead.

Another peculiarity of the industry is its insularity. In 1985 Dentsu and Hakuhodo, which between them account for nearly

Japanese made easy, courtesy of Epson.

Good morning, Mr Shopkeeper.

Not bad thank you, and yourself?

Today it is fine, but I fear that tomorrow it will rain.

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The printers of Epson are frightfully reliable, are they not?

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おかげさまで元気でございます。あなたは如何ですか。
OKAGESAMA DE GENKI DE ORIMASU.
ANATA WA IKAGA DESU KA.

きょうはいい天気ですが明日は雨になるかも知れません。
KYO WA II TENKI DESU GA ASHITA WA AME NI NARU KA MO SHIREMASEN.

いとこのろばは一輪車が出来ません。
ITOKO NO ROBA WA ICHIRINSHA GA DEKIMASEN.

それはそうとエプソンのプリンタを購入したいのですが。
SORE WA SOTO EPUSON NO PURINTA O KONYU SHITAI NO DESU GA.

エプソンのプリンタは信頼性がすごく高いそうですね。
EPUSON NO PURINTA WA SHINRAISEI GA SUGOKU TAKAI SO DESU NE.

ですから世界で40%市場があるのです。
DESU KARA SEKAI DE YONJU PAASENTO SHIJO GA ARU NO DESU.

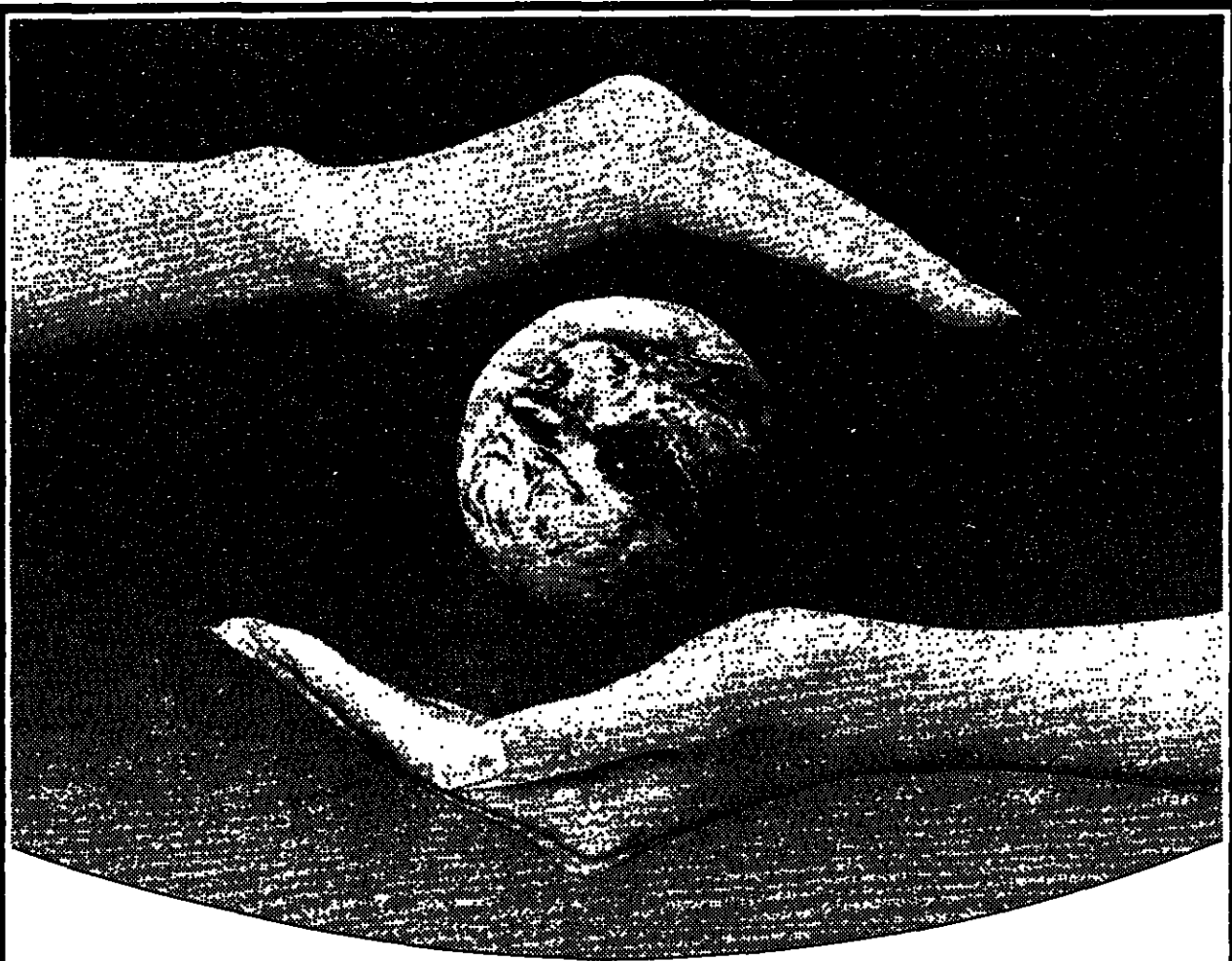
ああそうですか。知りませんでした。が英国のPCコンパティブルの市場で二ヶ月の間に10%のシェアを獲得しました。
AA SO DESU KA. SHIRIMASEN DESHITA GA EIKOKU NO PC KOMPATIBURU NO SHIJO DE NIKAGETSU NO AIDA NI JUPPAASENTO NO SHEA O KAKUTOKU SHIMASHITA.

本当ですか。それではエプソンのPCも下さい。
HONTO DESU KA. SORE DE WA EPUSON NO PC MO KUDASAL.

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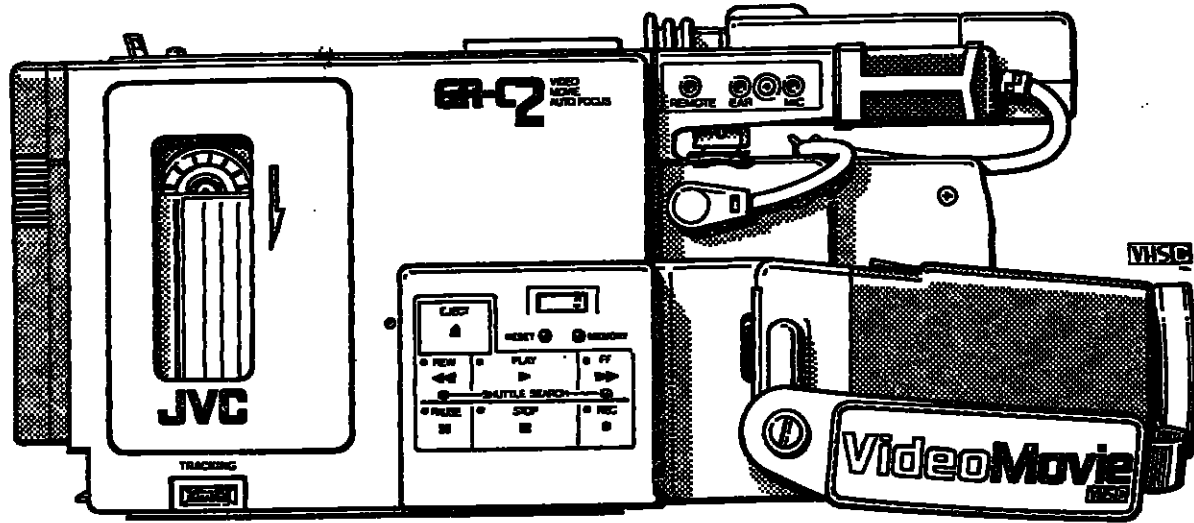
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Forward with fabrics

The influence of Japanese design on Western fashion has been overwhelming in the 1980s. The West has frequently looked East for inspiration and renewal. But in the first half of this decade, Japanese designers have exported their designs to Europe, set up shop in international fashion capitals and profoundly affected the development of taste.

Japan has challenged the sexist concept that dress must be based on the shape of the body. An emphasis on fabric rather than form has set in motion a fashion revolution.

The current flowering of Japan's fashion has its roots in Paris nearly 20 years ago. Designer Kenzo Takada helped to shape French ready-to-wear with his colourful collections and knitwear shapes based on the two-dimensional kimono.

At the same time, his compatriot Issey Miyake, stirred by the revolutionary movement in France in 1968, broke away from the French *couture* tradition in which he was trained. He rejected elitist dress and went back to basics — to the cloth itself, its potential and performance.

Both these designers have always insisted that they are designers first and only incidentally Japanese. Yet from them have developed the essential elements of Japanese fashion today: a belief in fabric, a rejection of the Western concepts of form and status, and a look that appeals

to the modern young, of both sexes.

The shock of the new came in Paris in the autumn of 1982, with the emergence of a Japanese school of design, led by two intellectuals and firm friends, Rei Kawakubo and Yohji Yamamoto.

Rei Kawakubo showed warrior women on the march in her *Comme des Garçons* shows. They would stride without make-up, or with bruised and blackened faces, in formless clothes in unremitting blacks and greys, to the

It has adapted to the market-place

beat of atonal music. Her slashed and tattered clothes, sweaters with holes like gruyère cheese and asymmetric body wrappings, were on the same wave-length as British punk and caught the fashion mood of the time.

But the strength of modern Japanese fashion is that it has grown and adapted to the market-place, in a way that creative British designers must envy. Today's *Comme des Garçons* collections, and its increasingly important menswear ranges, have compromised with Western taste.

Five years after the fashion bombshell, the strongest of the Japanese designers working abroad have survived. And back home, a new-found confidence and creative energy

inspires both design and retailing, with Japanese stores now colonizing Hong Kong.

Kenzo still works entirely within a Western tradition, as does Japan's *couturière* Hanae Mori. The 60-year-old designer is known in the West for her elegant and beautifully crafted clothes, especially evening wear, in Madame Butterfly silks and vivid colours. She first set up business in Tokyo in the 1950s and now owns 15 companies, including the wholesale company Studio V.

In the same colourful tradition, but with completely different clothes, is Kansai Yamamoto, whose dramatic knitwear and theatrical fashion spectacles suggest the costumes and drama of Kabuki theatre.

Junko Koshino came over to England in 1973 and now has a successful business of young, contemporary sportswear, manufactured in Japan and Italy. She is one of three designing sisters. Junko and Kiriko Koshino both work out of Paris, but the three show together in Japan.

Issey Miyake claims that the greatest influence on his fashion thoughts is Madame Vionnet, who invented bias-cutting in the 1920s. Like her, Miyake takes a fabric and lets it fall freely, rather than cutting and stitching it into a rigid form. He takes that concept one stage further by creating garments which literally change form on the runway: capes that fall from the

So relaxed: Miyake's free-falling unstructured layers.

shoulders into a skirt or hoods that unfold to create collars or sleeves.

Research into traditional Japanese work clothes encouraged Miyake to use thick, quilted cottons and woven stripes that seem made for modern times.

Suzzy Menkes
Fashion Editor

Cinema's new double bill of talent and cash

After a long period of relative eclipse the Japanese film is shining again, with money in the home box-office and a new lustre abroad.

Responsible for the eclipse were a declining studio system — over-stuffed with enormous overheads, afraid to take chances and wary of new talent — and a lack of independent money willing to back novel projects.

Typical of the situation were the extremes to which Akira Kurosawa, Japan's finest director, was put in search of funding. Turned down in his own land in his attempts to find the money for *Ran*, the director went, Lear-like, from place to place before finding major funding in France. Money for his last three films

has come from outside Japan. There is, however, new money for a range of smaller-budget films. Among the heaviest of the new investors is Fuji-TV, which financed both Kon Ichikawa's remake of *The Harp of Burma*, last year's top money-maker, and *The Antarctic Story*, the most financially successful Japanese film ever made.

CBS-Sony, Kadokawa Publishing, Sanrio and Seibu-Parco have all provided funding and, in some cases, distribution for the new films. These companies, all deep into diversification, will bank-roll projects the big studios feel they cannot afford to touch. Television stations, department stores and publishing houses do not have studio overheads because they have

no studios, nor do they have stockholders demanding instant profit from films.

Yanagimachi, Oguri, Morita, Somai and Hayashi are among the directors who have benefited from these changes.

A fairly young and knowledgeable film-viewing audience exists in Japan and high admission prices make film-making a viable business once this audience is attracted, something which the major studios, playing it safe, have on the whole failed to do.

It is a comparatively small audience (about 155,000 in 1985, down from 217,000 in 1971) but tickets are quite expensive — 1,118 yen (about £4.47) on average in 1985, against 366 yen in 1971. These returns are for those making

the most popular films, the great majority of which have been independent productions.

Among the results is that the old producer system of making films (Toho, Toei, Shochiku producers telling directors what to do) is giving way. The new film money is all independent and department stores have no film producers. Japanese cinema is consequently reverting to being director-oriented, just as it was in the great days of Ozu, Mizoguchi, Naruse and others.

Donald Richie

Author of many books on Japanese films. Donald Richie has just completed a new book on world cinema. Viewing Film



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Motoring by Clifford Webb

The joys of driving a 'ragtop'

Open top cars will never be a significant force in the British market. With a climate like ours you are lucky to get the hood down for a whole day. Indeed my experience suggests that a single long journey completed without recourse to rain protection is an event to boast of.

But when those glorious cloudless days do appear the sheer exhilaration of driving a 'ragtop' are moments to be savoured. An added bonus is that some of the latest Cabriolets are better looking than their saloon counterparts, even with the hood up.

I recently enjoyed such a day driving the new Peugeot 205 GTI on some of the best roads and through some of the most impressive scenery in Britain, down the backbones of Wales from Chester to Cardiff.

The 205 has already done wonders for Peugeot. Since it was launched three years ago over one and a quarter million have been sold and the GTI version has become one of the cult vehicles of the 1980s.

However chopping the top off has in the past produced some ugly duckings from good looking parents. That is not the case with the new Peugeot. If anything it has even more attractive lines. That of course is why Peugeot went to Pinfarina to do the conversion. The two companies have been partners on successful open top models since the 1950s. The Italian stylist also assembles, paints and finishes the body so he can control the final appearance.

The first requirement of a good conversion is to retain the torsional strength of the original despite the loss of the roof, a key structural member of the modern chassis-less car. The floor pan of the standard 205 has been considerably strengthened with new cross members added under the front seats and ahead of the

fuel tank. The result is a very rigid car. There is no scuttle shake, no protesting noises from the body under extreme cornering pressure or at speed on rough roads.

The fuel-injected 1580cc engine from the GTI has already won a host of admirers for its smooth, effortless power and allied to one of the sweetest five-speed gearboxes around it makes the open top an exciting drive.

But there is a price to be paid for all this fresh air motoring and the new GTI is no exception. It costs £9,495 compared with £7,360 for the fixed roof GTI. But it is still cheaper than its major competitors in Britain, the Ford XR3i Cabriolet at £9,817 and the VW Golf GTI Cabriolet at £10,512.

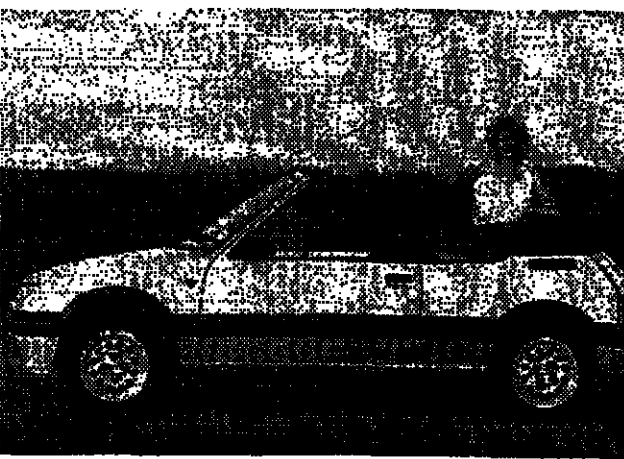
Peugeot expect to sell 1,000 in the first full year. Their dealers have already snapped this year's allocation of 500. Ford, the Cabriolet leader, sold 4,450 last year.

Citroen revival

After years of failing to live up to the technical excellence of their cars Citroen sales in Britain are taking off. They have already sold 28 per cent more cars this year than in the same period last year and according to Bernard Peloux, managing director of Citroen UK, look like breaking even for the first time in six years.

He predicts a market share of 2 per cent in 1986 and the last time the French company reached that dizzy height was back in 1978.

It all started to come right with the launch three years ago of the BX medium car, the first of its products designed with ease of manufacture and low-cost maintenance as top priorities. It is now making quite an impact in the fleet business



Peugeot 205 GTI: Exhilarating effortless power

which has been closed to Citroen because of its reputation for producing complex, difficult and expensive cars to maintain.

The star of the BX range is the diesel. So far this year it is second only to Ford's Escort diesel and actually pipped it in a couple of months. There cannot be many model ranges sold in Britain where diesel versions account for nearly half the entire range but that is the measure of the BX's popularity.

It is available with two engine sizes, 1769cc and 1905cc. The larger engine model recently acquired ZF's four-speed automatic transmission, an option to the standard five-speed manual. The German 'box' with a torque-converter 'lock-up' of top gear and a split hydro-mechanical drive for third is fast becoming the most popular automatic of the 1980s. It gives away little in performance or economy of the manual gearboxes and is effortless in its changes.

I recently drove a BX 19 DTR automatic for a week. It is easily the most impressive diesel car to pass through my hands. Starting is almost instantaneous. By the time you had fitted your safety belt the fast acting glow plugs have reached their operating temperatures and off you go. There is the inevitable diesel clatter while you are stationary but it is still markedly quieter than most of its rivals.

On the road the diesel noise is not discernible, indeed knowledgeable passengers not only failed to spot that it was a diesel but expressed considerable surprise even when alerted and listening intently.

But it is not just the old diesel starting and noise problems that have been immeasurably improved on the BX. Its performance is a revelation.

It gets away from traffic lights quite smartly and changes up through the gears like a medium sized petrol car. And it does it all with such lack of fuss that it is relaxing and satisfying to drive. Gone are the frustrating moments we came to accept as the penalty for the diesel's more economical consumption.

Vital statistics

Model: Citroen BX19 DTR Automatic. Price: £9,180. Engine: 1905cc four cylinder diesel. Performance: 0-62 mph 16.2 secs, maximum speed 97mph. Official consumption: Urban 43.5mpg, 56mpg, 56.5mpg, 75mpg 42.2mpg. Length: 13.9 feet. Luggage: Group 4

Not that that is missing either. I returned over 40mpg on two brisk cross-country runs against the clock. Driven more conservatively 45mpg would be within the compass of most drivers. Fuel saving is helped by the BX's progressive 'kick down'. It is not necessary to floor the accelerator to change down. Steadily increased pressure will do it for you and if the resulting change is not sufficient you can dip a further gear by moving the foot faster.

Caravan speeds

Within the next few weeks the permitted maximum speeds of towed caravans will be raised from 50mph to 60mph on dual carriageways and motorways. It will remain at 50mph on other roads. The move has been welcomed by the Caravan Club because it removes an anomaly which restricted trailers including caravans to 50mph on motorways while everything else could do at least 60mph.

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RACING: PEBBLES RETIRED TO STUD AFTER SHOULDER INJURY FAILS TO CLEAR UP

Green Desert lays claim to sprint title

By Michael Seely
Upholding the value of this season's classic form in an uncertain manner, Green Desert outclassed his five opponents in the Norcross July Cup at Newmarket yesterday.



Green Desert (centre) fend off Grey Desire (right) and Cyranoe De Bergerac to win the July Cup at Newmarket yesterday

This victory continued the incredible run of success enjoyed by Michael Seely and Walter Swinburn, who have now won the principal races on all three days of the meeting. Their next strike for gold will be at the Curragh tomorrow when Untold is an odds-on favourite to win the Giltwin Stud Irish Oaks.

Both Gwyddion and Cyranoe De Bergerac tried hard to get to grips soon after half-way but could make no impression. Green Desert eventually beat Grey Desire by three quarters of a length with Cyranoe the same distance away third.

Yves Saint-Martin certainly made an error of judgment by hying too far out of his ground on Last Tycoon, who finished fast to take fourth place. However, no matter what tactics the 15-times champion French jockey had employed, the pair would not have beaten the easy winner.

"This is a very fast horse indeed," Seely said, with a triumphant gleam in his eyes. "If the owners agree I want to bring him back to five furlongs and go for the William Hill Sprint Championship at York."

After finishing second to Dancing Brave in our own 2,000 Guineas, Green Desert was sent to the Curragh where he finished unplaced behind Flash Of Steel in the Irish equivalent in heavy going. The colt then went to Ascot where he was runner-up to Sure Blade in the St James's Palace Stakes.

had to take his chance. And then we had to give him one more go over a mile at Ascot on fast going."

Green Desert belongs to Maktoum Al Maktoum and earlier in the afternoon we had heard the sad news that his brother, Sheikh Mohammed's brilliant filly, Pebbles, has finished her racing career and will now be retired to stud.

"It's a cartilage in her shoulder," Robert Acton, general manager of the Sheikh's breeding interests, said. "Clive Brittain has advised us that there is no point in persevering any further. We are sending her to Kentucky to be mated with a proven Northern Dancer stallion such as Danzig or Lyphard. She'll then be brought back to foal in this country and then we might send her to Sharaf Dancer." Acton also said that

Oh So Sharp is in foal to Dunbeath and will visit Sharaf Dancer in 1987. After Barry Hills had given Sheikh Mohammed an earlier success by winning the H & K Commissions Silver Jubilee Stakes with the improving three-year-old stayer, Zaubarr, the Lambourn trainer said that Sure Blade would not now be trained for the Matchmaker International Stakes.

"Sure Blade is still not moving right," Hills said. "We plan to give him at least a month's rest and turn him out at the Rutland Stud. We want to try and bring the horse back for an autumn campaign including the Champion Stakes, but if he isn't in training as a four-year-old."

That normally fiercely competitive handicap, the Addison Tools Stakes, was turned into a procession when Michael Hills brought Aventino home four lengths ahead of Pinstrife. John Sutcliffe, the king of Epsom gambling trainers, has now placed Andy Smith's three-year-old to win five races in succession.

"Aventino is in a race at Sandown in about 10 days' time where he is 2lb better treated than today," Sutcliffe said. "After that we'll probably have to sell him. It's a marvellous life and easy to train when you've got good horses. They do it all for you."

Willie Carson had his only winner of the afternoon when riding Mumfry's Favourite to Royal Fox in the Bahrain Trophy. "She's now got a 5lb penalty for the Stewards' Cup, but I haven't decided yet whether to run her," John Dunlop, the winning trainer, said.

Ben Hanbury had news of Midway Lady, the winner of the 1,000 Guineas and Oaks. "The filly was jarred up after Epsom," the trainer said. "We're going to start her cantering again on July 29. If we get some rain she'll be prepared for the Yorkshire Oaks. Otherwise it will be an autumn campaign including the Prix Vermeille and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe."

Research fund launched

A £5 million research fund has been set up to help combat the growing problem of viruses in racing stables and studs. Details of the fund were announced at Newmarket yesterday by Lord Porchester, the chairman of the trustees of the Equine Virology Research Foundation.

"In recent years the bloodstock industry in the United Kingdom has experienced several outbreaks of disease initiated by viruses," Lord Porchester said. "Respiratory diseases in some of our leading stables have disrupted training programmes, and many of the best horses have been lost to the industry as a result of the disease."

The new research programme will concentrate on equine herpes virus 1 (EHV-1) which causes respiratory disease in horses in training, abortion in mares, and paralysis. The fund will enable veterinary scientists to make use of molecular biology and genetic engineering to try to develop vaccines which are effective against EHV-1.

Fast starters may play into hands of Imperial Jade

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

With Dublin Lad, Philip Clantime and Rotherfield Greys all standing on the ground, today's Limpac Handicap at York is guaranteed to be a sizzling sprint from the word go.

These four really only have one way of racing and that is to get flat out from the start, especially Dublin Lad who made all the running to win the Gosford Park Cup at Newcastle last month by a length and a half from Clantime.

All this leads me to think that in this instance they could outplay any other contenders and simply play into the hands of Pat Ebery on Imperial Jade.

At Epsom, on Derby Day, Imperial Jade only just failed to catch Clantime whom she will be meeting on 5lb better terms at Sandown on July 12. Two days later Imperial Jade showed what a redoubtable competitor she is by giving Milton Brown 2lb and a three-length beating over six furlongs.

Bruno hits back with one below the belt

By Srikanth Sen Boxing Correspondent

If Tim Witherspoon was confident of beating Frank Bruno, he came away doubly certain that he would return home to the United States with his World Boxing Association heavyweight title after his confrontation with the challenger for publicity's sake yesterday.

"There were certain things I saw that told me a lot about Bruno," Witherspoon said after the meeting, which was held at a hotel midway between Witherspoon's camp at Basildon and the home of Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, at Hornchurch, where Bruno is staying while he trains for his challenge at Wembley Stadium on July 19.

"Man, you don't want to take seriously all those things I said about making Bruno pay because he said I was fast. I was pushing him to see what his condition is like. I found he was nervous," Witherspoon said. "Check this out. He made eye contact but when I pressured him he looked away."

"London is his home town and he did not have anything to say. He was merely capitalizing on what I was saying. He was not leading. I reckon that how he is going to fight. He said something about the bell rings and keep the belt polished. That is what James Broad said, or something like it, and I knocked him out in the second round."

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Witherspoon was relaxed at the press conference while Bruno was a little introspective. The champion unleashed a series of combinations but he did not have it all his own way. Bruno boxed cleverly and caught Witherspoon with good few sneaky ones: "I hope I won't have to fight all those people you have brought with you," when Witherspoon said that he runs six miles a day Bruno countered with "I don't run every day but I run better than you." "He's a good champion but as Larry Holmes said his attitude stinks and his lifestyle stinks."

York

Televast: 2.40, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10
Going: good to firm
Draw: 8-6f, low numbers best
2.10 BLACK DUCK STAKES (2-Y-O: £4,012: 6f) (4 runners)

C4

3.40 SIA MANCHESTER STEEP HANDICAP (25,952: 1m 4f) (6)
202 012-143 SWIMMER (M) Daniboo G Huffer 4-7-7 G Carter (2)
210 011-011 FIVE FARINGS (M) (Gentle) M Stone 4-8-2 W B Swales (2)

York selections

By Mandarin
2.10 Chime Time. 2.40 Zeta. 3.10 IMPERIAL JADE (nap). 3.40 Five Farthings. 4.10 El Zeta. 4.40 Eastern Song.

York selections

By Michael Seely
3.10 IMPERIAL JADE (nap). 3.40 Five Farthings.
2.40 MAIL ON SANDY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £5,150: 1m 10f) (8)

Lingfield Park

Going: good
Draw: high numbers best
2.0 INFANTS MAIDEN STAKES (2: £1,207: 1m 4f) (12 runners)

Lingfield selections

By Mandarin
2.0 Bushido. 2.30 Juvenile/Inequivalent. 3.0 Hedera Helix. 3.30 Kheta King. 4.0 Albert Hall. 4.30 Helawe.

Chester

Going: good to firm
Draw: low numbers best
6.30 WATERGATE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (2: £1,660: 7f 122y) (18 runners)

Chester selections

By Mandarin
6.30 Winter Wares. 6.55 Gay's Flutter. 7.20 Indian Orator. 7.50 Sweet Mover. 8.20 Barleaze. 8.50 African Rex.

Newmarket results

Catterick

Goings firm

Goings firm

Goings firm

Goings firm

Goings firm

Goings firm

SPORT

No backing for blacking of Games

By John Goodbody

Britain's black competitors yesterday reacted with a mixture of approval, sympathy and realism at the boycott by Nigeria and Ghana of the Commonwealth Games, which begin in Edinburgh on July 24.

The boycott - even if all the African nations were to join in - will severely damage only the men's track races and boxing. But everyone recognized that the surest of the "Friendly Games" would still be tarnished by the greatest disturbance to the quadrennial event since it was first staged in 1930.

One man in particular who understood the stance of Ghana in joining Nigeria by refusing to attend the Games unless Britain imposed economic sanctions on South Africa was the sprinter, Ernest Obeng.

Obeng, who ran for his native Ghana in the Commonwealth Games in 1978 and 1982, changed nationalities after being sent home from the 1984 Olympics and will represent England in Edinburgh as a relay runner. "Anyone who makes a stand against apartheid must be applauded," he said. "I fully understand the attitude of Nigeria and Ghana. But I still intend to run."

Obeng himself suffered from a boycott when Ghana, unlike Britain, followed an American call not to go to the 1980 Olympics in Moscow because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan. "The athletes certainly saw no justification for a boycott then. This time I think it is going to destroy the Games."

Two athletes who were less sympathetic were Judy Simpson, of England, a silver medal winner in the heptathlon, and Colin Jackson, of Wales, a

high hurdler, neither of whose events is likely to be grievously affected even if more countries decide to stay away from Edinburgh.

"I always thought there was a definite possibility of a boycott and the stand of the British Government has aggravated this," Mrs Simpson said. "But I do not think that wrecking the Commonwealth Games will alter the decision of the British Government, who already seem quite happy to see the Commonwealth breaking up."

She pointed out that the withdrawal of various countries from the 1980 Olympics did not change the mind of the Soviet Union over Afghanistan since they are still there six years later.

Athletes would be against boycott

"I was delighted in 1980 when the British Olympic Association decided to go to Moscow and I am sure the athletes of Nigeria and Ghana will be devastated at the news. People do not realize how much it means to an athlete to compete in these Games."

Jackson said: "If the athletes of those countries who are boycotting the Games were to have a vote they would go to Edinburgh. But I do think sanctions should still be imposed. The blacks in South Africa cannot suffer any more than they are already doing."

All stress the difficulty of fully comprehending the feeling within the English team, as Design White, who will represent the England judo team

at middleweight, said: "We do not live in Africa. Ghana and Nigeria are practically neighbours to a country where blacks are being killed daily."

The competitors were also divided about whether the athlete, Zola Budd, and the swimmer, Annette Cowley, who were born in South Africa, should represent England - a decision which was also cited by the Africans as an additional reason for the boycott.

Keith Connor, twice a winner of the triple jump and now a coach, and Andrea Lynch, another former British international, are to canvass members of the English team to ostracize Miss Budd, the favourite for the 1,500 metres. Tessa Sanderson, the Olympic javelin champion, has already said that the runner should condemn apartheid.

"When we leave the shores of Britain we are ambassadors for our country and for black people in Britain," Connor said, "but as long as Zola Budd refuses to take any stance she is still perceived as South African. She is a fantastic athlete but she owes the British team an explanation as to why she is not taking a stance."

Mrs Simpson thought that Miss Budd had a valid claim to compete while White said: "The Commonwealth countries should have made a move in Los Angeles when she was racing there if they had felt strongly about it. They should have pulled out of the Games then, not now."

Obeng said that there were no moves at the moment within the English team to have Miss Budd barred from competing.



Feast of Stephen: another birdie for the Moortown leader

Stephen drives on as Britons crash

By Mitchell Platts

Lyndsay Stephen, of Australia, maintained his challenge for the Car Care Plan International with an enterprising second round of 67 on the Moortown course in Leeds yesterday.

Stephen now has a halfway aggregate of 132, which is six under par, and he is perfectly poised to spare himself the ordeal of being required to pre-qualify for the Open Championship, which starts at Turnberry next Thursday, by taking one of the five places on offer this week courtesy of the Royal and Ancient.

Even so, the resolute performance of the 30-year-old from Perth contrasted with the ineptitude of several of the British contenders who between them played such a rash of indifferent strokes that they fell victim to the halfway guillotine.

The casualty list was as surprising as it was long with Gordon Brand Jr, Eamonn Darcy, David Feherty, Robert Lee, John O'Leary, Philip Parkin, Des Smyth, Brian Waites, Paul Way and Ian Woosnam beating a hasty retreat. Way later discovered that he had signed for a wrong score in the first round and would anyway have been disqualified. Golf is a game of such troughs and waves that it would be unrealistic to view such results as being disastrous, with the Open Championship on the horizon, for those players involved.

What is disturbing is the manner in which they fell by the wayside while Stephen edged towards the prospect of a first victory on the European circuit and other lesser known golfers such as Peter Senior and Vaughan Somers, both of Australia, and William Malley, of the United States, remained in touch.

Stephen made a fine start by holing from 20 feet for a birdie at the demanding second hole. He dropped a shot at each of the third and fourth holes, but he recovered in some style by gathering four birdies in five holes from the seventh. In truth Stephen himself

British cannot find cracks in US armour

From Jenny MacArthur, Aachen

Despite outstanding performances from Nick Skelton and Malcolm Pirah, who are lying third and fourth, the British had to settle for the silver medals behind the Americans in the world championships here yesterday. The French, the defending champions, took the bronze medal owing entirely to Pierre Durand on the diminutive Jappeloup, a horse who is rapidly becoming a national hero in France.

Durand is the overnight leader for the individual championship which continues tomorrow. West Germany's Paul Schockemoble, who had been

said: But British hopes were raised when America's first rider - the petite but tough Katie Monahan on the Irish-bred Amadia - hit the comparatively straightforward fence 9 and the last fence which, coming after the water, proved one of the most difficult.

Her compatriot Katherine Burdall on The Natural also succumbed to fence 9. When their third rider, Michael Matz, winner of the individual bronze in the 1978 world championships, had 8 faults on Chef they began to look vulnerable.

The British had got off to a good start with just one time fault from Skelton. Michael Whitaker had a knockdown at fence 3 and then jumped too big into the combination and hit the middle part - a fault which Warren Point repeated in the second round. Pirah went next. He is riding with the determination one would expect from a man who has spent the last four years with his sights set on these championships.

His horse Towerlands Anglezarke looked superb yesterday and despite hitting the second part of the double of water ditches - which may have been due to him losing his near-fore shoe just before - he finished with just 4½ faults to put Britain ahead of the Americans.

A clear round from the fourth American - Homfeld - made it imperative that John Whitaker should do the same. But disaster struck. Hopsotch hit each part of the combination and then came to a grinding halt at the first water ditch. He completed the course with 39.75 faults.

Whitaker said afterwards it was the worst round of his life adding, with typical nonchalance "but that's life, isn't it?" In the second round over the same course Skelton and Pirah kept the Americans on their toes. Skelton again had just one time fault and Pirah had a magnificent clear round. With America's first rider Miss Monahan collecting 9 faults it was looking hopeful.

But the Americans had decided that as near as the British were going to get, Miss Burdall, the least experienced of their four, went clear on The Natural, Matz and Chef followed their example and when Homfeld collected just four faults the gold medal was theirs. John Whitaker wisely decided not to compete in the second round once he knew that whatever he did it would not make any difference.

CRICKET

50 overs a side in World Cup

By John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent

Rather than the matches in next year's World Cup, to be played in India and Pakistan, being of 60 overs a side and lasting for two days, it was decided at the annual meeting of the International Cricket Conference, held at Lord's over the last two days, that they will be begun and finished in a day, with 50 overs available to each side.

That anyway is the idea, though the problem of bowling even 100 overs in a day on the sub-continent has never yet been satisfactorily resolved. One-day internationals played there at the moment start at 9.30 and are limited to 40 overs a side, but the short twilight and the inevitable delays mean that even they are invariably reduced.

In most respects it was, as the secretary put it, "not an untypical ICC Conference." In other words, so far as the course of excessive short-

Ian Botham yesterday denied that he had leaked details of his private meeting with Raman Subba Row, chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board. He had been called in to explain alleged remarks about the England selectors made at a Manchester dinner and Subba Row was unhappy that details of the meeting were reported.

pitched bowling and slow Test match overage are concerned little if anything was achieved. A letter, drafted by the ICC, is to be sent to all governing bodies, to be forwarded in turn to all first-class umpires, stressing that they will have the strongest backing regarding a strict interpretation of the law relating to intimidatory bowling.

Australia went so far as to submit a paper proposing that the bouncer be outlawed altogether. It was felt that this would be going too far, and that within reason it should remain an integral part of the game. The Test and County Cricket Board's proposal of a new wording regarding short-pitched bowling was well received, as was a suggestion that consideration be given to some form of restriction such as that used now in one-day cricket.

But we have heard it all before. Nothing was done, although so far as over rates are concerned there is no earthly reason that I can see why one of the member countries in favour of a mandatory minimum of overs in a day should not make a proposal which would compel the West Indians to toe the line.

Both the multi-racial South African Cricket Union and the more politically conscious South African Cricket Board reported in, not in person but in writing, and ICC members were left to meet delegates from these two bodies, now in England, should they wish to. The reasons given by Bangladesh and Zimbabwe for the cancellation of the England B tour last January were accepted. More cricket, page 38.

Rebels back in the fold

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Governing bodies are having a hard time in New Zealand this week. David Lange's Government has a long row to hoe after the accommodation with France over the Rainbow Warrior affair. And there will be a certain amount of outrage in world rugby circles after the New Zealand Rugby Union announcement yesterday that the players who took part in the unsanctioned tour to South Africa earlier this year could be back playing internationals before their season ends.

Effectively the rebel players, known as the New Zealand Cavaliers, have been suspended for two international matches that against France played last month and the first of the three-match series against Australia, in Wellington on August 9. Colin Meads, their coach, was reprimanded for his part in the affair when the NZRU council met a month ago, but retained his post as a national selector.

Yesterday's council meeting decided the players were guilty of serious misconduct for touring South Africa without permission and added a further one-match ban to that imposed a month ago. All the rebels who are still active, therefore, would be eligible for the remaining two games against Australia, for the eight-match tour to France in October and November, and for next year's World Cup.

Illegal payments

Investigations into allegations of illegal payments to players in South Africa are continuing; the findings will be reported to the International Rugby Football Board when it meets in London in October specifically to discuss amateurism, under the chairmanship of Ces Blazey (New Zealand) and vice chairmanship of Dr Danie Craven (South Africa).

The Irish Rugby Union are due to discuss amateurism at their next committee meeting and New Zealand's decision will do nothing to settle their doubts over participating in the World Cup; it would be surprising if Brigadier Dennis Shuttlesford, the retiring RFU president and his country's latest International Board representative, did not allude to the subject at today's annual meeting.

Russ Thomas, chairman of the New Zealand council, said last month that rebel players and management had made statutory declarations relating to pay for the tour, from which one infers there were no grounds for additional disciplinary action and the whole problem will be thrust into the lap of the International Board. Since the board has also to give a ruling on the "compensation" paid to players on Australia's 1984 tour to Britain and Ireland, which was inconsistent with IB regulations, October will be a busy month.

Masterful inactivity

If this is the end of matters concerning the rebel tour, then the players can clearly be seen to have got away with it, though there are several interpretations to be placed upon the action - or lack of it - by New Zealand. One is that they are aware of a possible legal case which by players keen to protect their franchises as individuals; another is the desire of some leading administrators to retain links with South Africa and, therefore, their sympathy with the players.

A third interpretation is that by following a policy of masterful inactivity, the whole affair may quietly subside. After all, the selectors are not obliged to pick the rebel players again. The side which beat France 18-9 nearly a fortnight ago will doubtless receive a vote of confidence in the match against Australia and another good performance should ensure their retention.

Were some of the Cavaliers required, they could be restored on tour in France, away from the domestic heat, or even in Britain if plans to bring the New Zealand Barbarians here for four matches next spring materialize. Nevertheless the fact remains that a tour arranged in a way described by Mr Blazey at the time as "totally unacceptable" has attracted punishment which can only be described as minimal. Where, one wonders, will the players go from here?

David Irwin, the former Ireland and British Lions centre, who announced his retirement last November after damage to his right knee, is to play again after accepting the advice of J. P. R. Williams, the former Wales and British Lions full back, who is also a doctor. More rugby union, page 38.

CYCLING

Pedersen takes yellow jersey and keeps Roche smiling

From John Wilcockson, St Hilaire de Harcouet

Everything is going right for Stephen Roche and his Italian team, Carrera, in the Tour de France. After Guido Bontempi, the team's sprinter, won the sixth stage at Cherbourg on Wednesday, Jorgen Pedersen, their Danish team-mate, yesterday earned the yellow jersey when he finished fourth behind Ludo Peeters, of Belgium, Ron Kiefel, of the United States, and Miguel Indurain, of Spain, after an exciting seventh stage. Roche finished comfortably in the

main pack, two minutes behind, to keep 14th place overall.

Peeters and Pedersen were in a group of eight riders who split away from the pack 30 miles from the finish after a series of attacks on a straight, big dipper of a road between Granville and Avranches. Also in the group was Paul Kimmage, the young Irishman, who is at the finding his feet in his first Tour de France, and the potentially dangerous Eric Caritoux, the winner of

the 1984 Tour of Spain.

With the wind at their backs, the leaders gained 40 seconds before climbing the steep hill at Avranches, where the course disappeared into a verdant network of lanes that dipped and climbed along the barraged valley of the Seline.

There were several counter-attacks but the gap continued to grow until four men went clear, 20 miles from the end. Kiefel was the power behind the chase and the four riders caught the breakaway group four miles from the finish.

The final sprint was uphill into the main square of what is the smallest town to host the Tour de France this year. Peeters had Marten Ducrot, his team mate, to lead him out and he managed to win the stage by a bike length.

"I didn't know who to watch in the sprint," admitted Kiefel, from Colorado, "so I waited until the last moment, but I couldn't quite get around Peeters."

Peeters, a former Belgian champion, last won the stage of the Tour de France in 1983 at Basle, when he also took over the yellow jersey. Yesterday, it was Pedersen who came out on top when the time gaps had been computed, and he now leads the race by just 11 seconds from Johan Van der Velde, of The Netherlands, the former race leader. Pedersen is the second Danish rider to lead the Tour. Sean Yates, the Sussex professional, also won a trophy yesterday. He earned a handsome copper vase for winning one of the day's intermediate sprints. Yates had made a brief attack with Marc Gomez, the former French champion, shortly before Peeters and his seven companions disappeared into the distance.

STAGE SEVEN (Cherbourg to St Hilaire, 125 miles): 1, L Peeters (Bel), 4 hr 57 min 00 sec; 2, R Kiefel (US), 4 hr 58 min 00 sec; 3, M Indurain (Sp), 4 hr 58 min 00 sec; 4, J Pedersen (Den); 5, J Blanco (Sp); 6, P Steffenhagen (Neth); 7, E Caritoux (Fr); 8, A Esparza (Sp); 9, Kimmage (Ir); 10, D De Wolf (Bel), all same time. Other placings: 24, D Phinney (US) at 2 min 3 sec; 28, M Earley (Ir), same time; 34, S Roche (Ire), same time; 47, R Millar (GB), same time; 138, S Yates (GB), same time. Overall positions: 1, Pedersen, 28 hr 48 min 36 sec; 2, J Van der Velde (Neth) at 11 sec; 3, G Bontempi (It) at 27 sec; 4, L Fignon (Fr) at 45 sec; 5, D Gaigne (Fr) at 50 sec; 6, F Marle (Fr) at 58 sec; 7, C Motte (Fr) at 59 sec; 8, J Pottier (Fr) at 1 min 10 sec; 9, E Boyer (Fr) at 1 min 13 sec; 10, Y Madoit (Fr) at 1 min 16 sec. Other placings: 14, Roche at 1 min 47 sec; 21, P Anderson (Australia) at 2 min 08 sec; 23, Millar at 2 min 17 sec; 71, Kimmage at 4 min 26 sec; 89, Earley at 5 min 30 sec; 98, Yates, at 5 min 53 sec.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Italians accused

Rome (AP) - Three first division clubs, Udinese, Naples and Bari, were among 12 Italian clubs who had players and officials indicted yesterday on charges of "sporting fraud" (altering the outcome of matches last season in conjunction with illegal betting) or "turning a blind eye" to the rigging of up to 30 games. The charges have been made against 50 people by the judicial arm of the Italian football federation and a separate criminal investigation is being conducted Italian justice officials. Any team found guilty faces relegation or point-penalties at the start of next season. Individuals could be banned for life. The betting scandal is similar to the one in 1979-80 which led to penalties against several top players.

Alfa back

Alfa Romeo are to return to grand prix racing next year as the supplier of four-cylinder 1.5-litre turbo-charged engines to the French Ligier team, who currently have the use of V6 Renault power units.

Cambridge win

Istanbul (AP) - The light blues of Cambridge yesterday defeated Oxford for the second time this year in a rowing race on the Golden Horn, an inlet of the Bosphorus Strait that divides Europe and Asia. Thousands of Turks crowded the banks of the waterway as Cambridge finished one length ahead of Oxford with Bosphorus University third.

Cutler's task

David Cutler, of Plymouth, the holder, has been drawn against another Devon player, Les Fisher, of Torbay, in the last 16 of the national invitation bowls singles.

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